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Volume 16, No. 9

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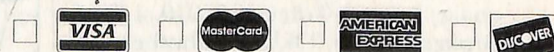
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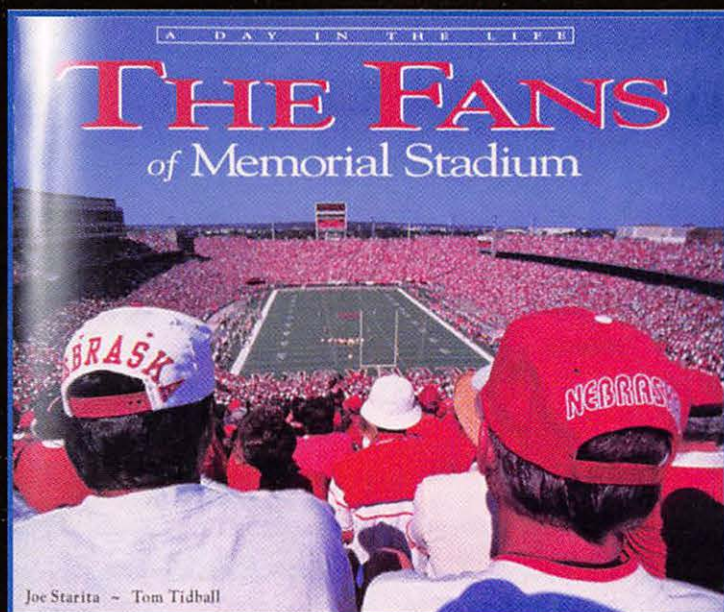
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Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published weekly from September through November except open dates; bi-monthly June/July; monthly January through May, August. Single issue cost \$2.95; subscription rate for one year (17 issues) is \$49.90. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$16.00 per year. Foreign postage \$34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by College Sports Communications, Inc., 4099 McEwen, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75244-5039, (214) 742-2000 or (800) 397-3715. Periodicals paid at Dallas, Texas and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

Address all editorial related correspondence to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

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For Subscription Inquiries call 1-800-397-3715 or mail to P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3222. Allow six to eight weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.



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Customer Service

1-800-397-3715

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Central Time)

Email Addresses

Publisher: huskerspub@xcscx.com

Editor: huskersedit@xcscx.com

Circulation: huskerscirc@xcscx.com

C O N T E N T S

September 28, 1996 • Volume 16, No. 9

FEATURES

10 Far Beyond Driven

Since walking on at Nebraska, Jon Vedral has opened many eyes with both his hustle and luck on the field and his musical preferences off it.

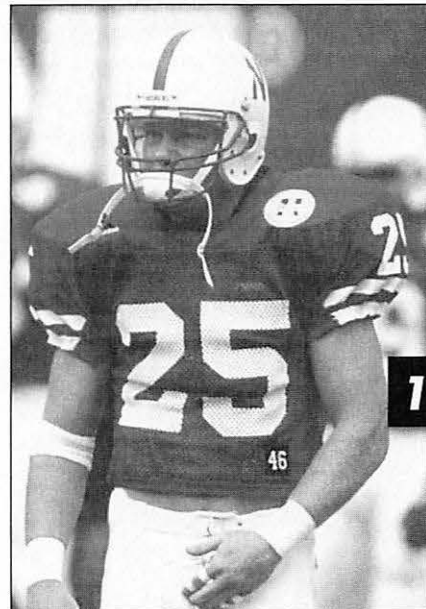
30 Dare To Dream

Megan Korver turned down a full ride at George Washington for a chance to walk on a Husker team of which she has always wanted to be a part.

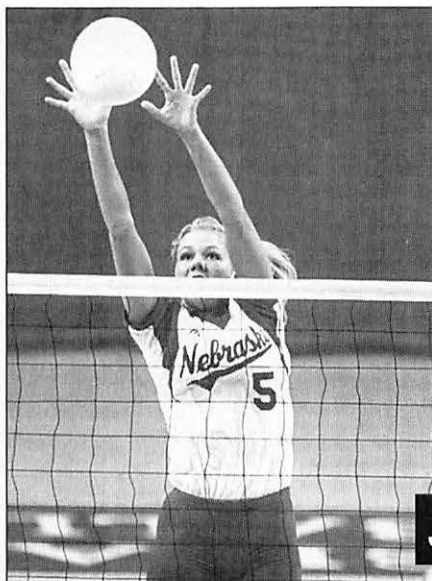
By Mike Babcock

34 Best Of The Best: The Numbers Game (Jerseys 11-20)

A couple of quarterbacks from last year's team make the list along with two of the school's all-time leaders in rushing and receiving. Can you guess who we're talking about?



10



30

DEPARTMENTS

Letters	6
Adrian's Analysis	7
State of the Huskers	8
The Jet's Retrospective	14
Scouting Colorado State	16
Arizona State Review	18
Overview	24
Game/Season Statistics	25
Grid Recruiting	26

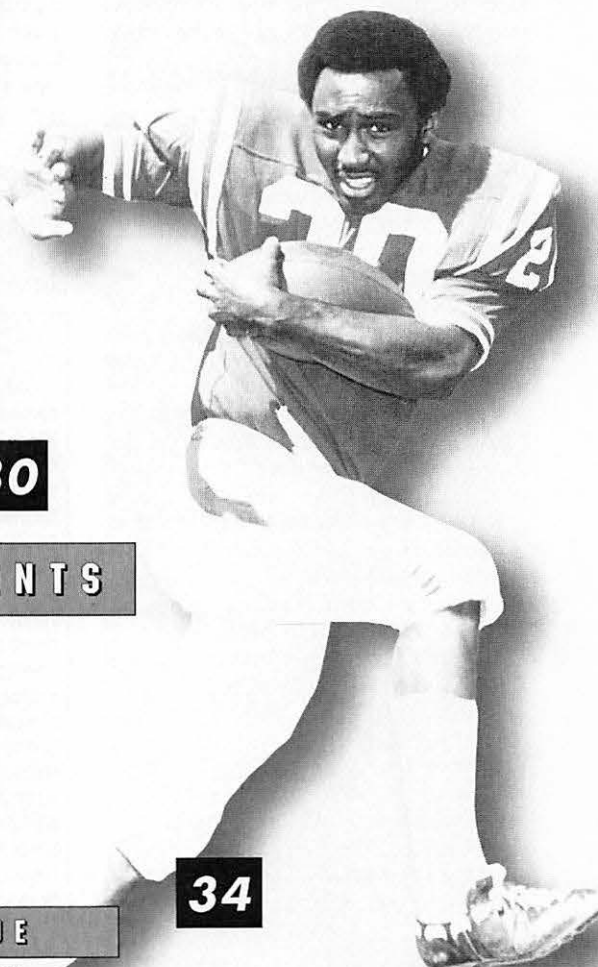


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NEXT ISSUE

Will be mailed on September 29, 1996.

34



fromTheEDITOR

You know that saying, "you don't know what you've got until it's gone?" Well as cliché as it is, it was one of the first things that ran through my head when I read through Mike Babcock's latest edition of "Best of the Best: The Number's Game."

Each week, prior to receiving Babcock's story, I jot down my picks. There's no way I can compete against his extensive knowledge of Husker athletics, but it's always fun to see how close I can get. It's probably the same reason teams like Michigan State agree to play the Huskers. But I digress.

In giving his picks as the best players to ever wear jerseys numbered 11 through 20, some of the school's greatest gridiron heroes such as Bobby "Mr. Touchdown" Reynolds, Dennis Claridge and Johnny Rodgers are listed. And at No. 15, the first player I thought about was Tommie Frazier. Is there really another choice? So far we were neck and neck.

But it was the pick at No. 18 that momentarily left me pausing to think. I had left that number blank on my sheet. It wasn't until I saw the answer that I started to feel like the contestants during *Final Jeopardy!* when they lose all their wagers only to see how easy the answer was.

To put it in the proper form: Who is Brook Berringer.

Berringer never received the national attention that the others listed had. But for Huskers, his contributions can never be measured in honors and trophies.

In 1994, it was Berringer who led the Huskers to Tom Osborne's first national title when Frazier went down with blood clots in his leg. The next year he graciously served as Frazier's backup as Nebraska won a second crown. Sadly, an airplane crash in April ended Berringer's life and his chance to shine in the NFL.

I think it would be fair to say that while Berringer was a player, no one ever thought he would be mentioned in the same breath as Frazier, Rodgers or Reynolds. Not that he didn't have the heart, desire or skill because those who knew him can attest he had it all. He just didn't have the prestige, something an NFL career might have helped to develop.

But when you look at the best players by jerseys (as we are), sometimes it's the intangibles that give one player an edge over another. That's the case with Berringer; the best to ever wear No. 18.

Chris Greer, Editor

LETTERS

Thanks for putting Husker quarterback Scott Frost on the cover of your last issue of *Huskers Illustrated*. The job Frost did Saturday was remarkable. Growing up in Nebraska, he obviously understood the expectations the state of Nebraska has for its football team. And while the running backs frequently garner most of the attention, a poor performance from the quarterback can kill any offense. Considering that it was his first game with the Huskers, playing in front of his friends and family and on national TV, Frost did a hell of a job.

Edward Scott
Omaha, Neb.

Perhaps Adrian Fiala experienced a little too much of the 1960s during his college days at Nebraska, because his column ("Challenging the Throne" Sept. 21, 1996) smacks of hallucination.

Challengers to the throne? Please. OK, Colorado has a decent team, but if they couldn't beat us last year in Boulder, they sure aren't going to come into Memorial Stadium and

turn the trick. Kansas State had a nice year last year (by their standards — not ours), but they lost a lot more in personnel than they gained in experience since last season. And Arizona State? They barely beat Washington. The Huskers will beat the Sun Devils by 40, at least.

Tad Clendon
Champion, Neb.

It's about time Michael Booker got the attention he deserves. Nobody can run against Nebraska, and with Booker developing like he is, few (if any) can throw in his direction. That now leaves Nebraska

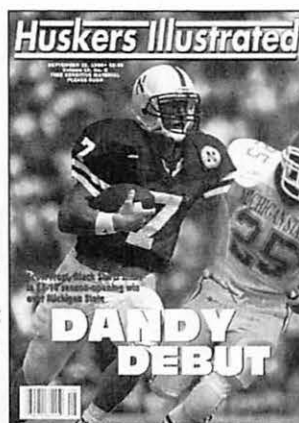
opponents with one offensive option, leaving them in a very dangerous position. One dimensional teams never have had success against Nebraska, and they never will.

Jarad Parks
Pigeon, Mich.

Who is Doug Looney, and why does he think Nebraska will only

beat Arizona State by a point? Did he not see Nebraska kill ASU last year (77-28)?

Pat Thomas
Red Willow, Neb.



Please send your comments and questions to **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (214) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length.

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Columbus, KKOT-FM	93.5
Falls City, KYNC-AM	1230
Fremont, KHUB-AM/KFMY-FM	1340/105.5
Grand Island, KRG-AM	1430
Holdrege, KUVR-AM/FM	1380/97.7
Kearney, KGF-AM/KQKY-FM	1340/105.9
Kimball, KIMB-AM	1260
Lexington, KRVN-AM	880
Lincoln, KLIN-AM/KFGE-FM	1400/105.3
McCook, KKYT-FM	105.3
Norfolk, KNEN-FM	94.7
North Platte, KODY-AM/KXNP-FM	1240/103.5
Omaha, KKAR-AM/KDGE-FM	1290/101.9
Scottsbluff, KNEB-AM/FM	960/94.1
Sidney, KSID-AM/FM	1340/98.7
Valentine, KVSH-AM	940
York, KAWL-AM	1370

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Des Moines, Iowa, KWKY-AM	1150
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Grand Junction, Colo., KKGM-AM	620
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Independence, Mo., KCTE-AM	1510
Las Vegas, Nev., KLAV-AM	123
Mitchell, S.D., KORN-AM	1490
Phoenix, Ariz., KXEG-AM	1010
Rapid City, S.D., KTOQ-AM	1340
Rogers, Ark., KURM-AM	790
Seattle, Wash., KEZX-AM	1150
Sioux City, Iowa, KMNS-AM	620
St. Louis, Mo., WFUN-FM	95.5
St. Paul, Minn., WMIN-AM	740
Wichita, Kan., KNSS-AM	1240
Winner, S.D., KWR-AM	1260
Yankton, S.D., KYNT-AM	1450

Trading Pads For A Microphone

Preparation for a Husker game proves grueling, despite moving from the locker room to the broadcast booth

The scoreboard read: Nebraska 55, Michigan State 14. It marked the end of the Huskers' first game of the 1996 season.

Our first broadcast was over. Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive coordinator, had just finished our coach's wrap-up show, and I was spent, my shirt drenched, my voice raspy and my mind racing from one thing to the next. All of the preparation, the film watching, the meetings with the Nebraska coaches, the production meetings, the constant review of media guides and game notes ...

Suddenly, those things seemed far away, like a haze off in the distance.

Just three hours earlier, I was in that haze, waiting with the same edge I had as a player, wanting to get the game started. I wanted to get that first hit and make that edge go away. The only trouble is, it's difficult to hit anything or anyone in the radio broadcast booth. The rule is: no hitting allowed in the booth.

With the opening kickoff, the haze started to lift as we prepared to paint a picture of the action on the field at Memorial Stadium for those Husker fans not fortunate enough to attend the game.

Preparing to do our first broadcast for the Pinnacle Sports Nebraska Network was, indeed, a lot like preparing to play a game. As a player, you attend almost daily meetings with the coaches, watch a great deal of film and practice, practice, in an attempt to peak physically and mentally at the absolute correct time. Sometimes, you hit the mark. Sometimes you don't. You work as a team.

As a broadcast team, we follow much the same routine ... but with much less in the way of physical exertion; as my waistline will attest.

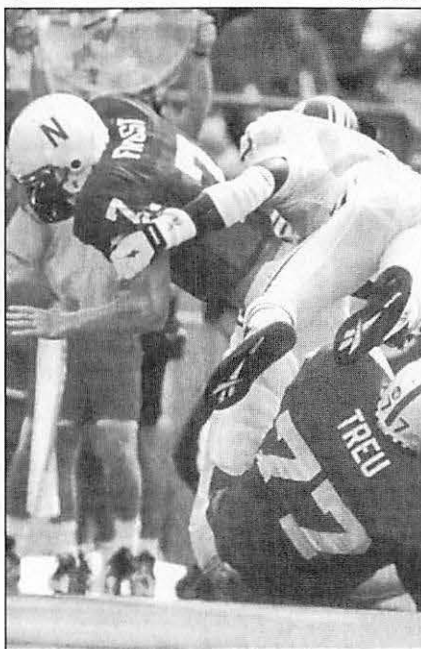


**By
ADRIAN
FIALA**

We meet with coaches. We watch film. We practice. We constantly pester the sports information department for facts, figures and player information. Then we put it all together, hoping to mentally and verbally peak at the correct time. Sometimes, we hit the mark. Sometimes, we don't, just like a football team. The odds for us are considerably better to hit the mark, however, because we have a lot fewer people involved than does a football team.

With the top 25 or 30 players — and more, these days — a few may not be at an optimal level of performance for a game. Every time you hear or read about an upset in sports, keep this in mind.

Jon Waller



Much like Scott Frost and the Huskers, the Pinnacle Sports team had little trouble in its first game of the season.

However, everything seemed to be in sync for our team on this particular day.

• Warren Swain hit the ground running with his play-by-play. Warren was accurate and professional. In short, he was outstanding in his first call of a Nebraska football game.

• Our spotter, former Husker defensive tackle (and co-captain on the 1994 national champion team) Terry Connealy, did a great job of pointing his huge fingers at the correct players on our game charts.

• John McGowan, our statistician and Husker trivia expert, kept those numbers rolling into our minds and into your living rooms, dens, automobiles and, ahem, local watering holes.

• Mike Elliott, our engineer, and his staff were, as always, the key to our broadcast. If they do not get it done, we do not get it done. Elliott and his crew kept us talking into the right end of the microphone, and the technical quality of the broadcast was beyond reproach.

• On the field, former NU quarterback Jerry Tagge and Gary Java patrolled the sidelines, collecting reports about coaches' remarks, plays happening right in front of them (Tagge and Java) and the first reports on player injuries.

The nerve center for all of the game day production was located a few miles away, at one of our network flagship stations, KLIN, where John Bishop and Matt MacDonald were in control of broadcast navigation. They made sure all of the bells and whistles were working for the extensive pregame show with Jim Rose, Gary Sharp and John Baylor, the game broadcast and the post-game show.

For a player and for a radio broadcaster, game preparation is very much the same, except for one major difference: getting out of bed on Sunday morning isn't much of a chore for a broadcaster, while it definitely is for a player. Game off ... and that haze has begun to settle in once again. ■

Adrian Fiala lettered three seasons for coach Bob Devaney's teams in 1967, 1968 and 1969. The 1969 Nebraska media guide said of him: "He's averaged 200 minutes per season as a tough, quick linebacker." Fiala played the weak-side. Now, as a color commentator, he studies such information before each game.

A Fresh Twist

Limits on football scholarships and an influx of talent has allowed many true freshmen to play right away

Ralph Brown got plenty of advice before the Nebraska football team's 55-14 opening-game victory over Michigan State. He listened attentively and heeded most of the advice.

"Guys told me, 'You're out of high school now.' They told me that I had to try to relax and take some deep breaths," Brown said during a post-game interview. "I took a lot of deep breaths."

**By
MIKE
BABCOCK**



George Darlington, Nebraska's veteran secondary coach, probably took a few deep breaths during the course of the afternoon, too, as he watched the game unfold from the pressbox. He was most interested in the Cornhusker defensive backs, of course, including two or three in particular. Brown was among those two or three, because he started at right cornerback ... and he is a true freshman.

Kris Brown began last season, his first at Nebraska, as the first-string place-kicker. But no one can recall the last time a true freshman position player started the first game for the Cornhuskers. It has been at least 35 years, according to the *Omaha World-Herald*. But it has probably been much longer than that.

Freshmen athletes were ineligible for varsity competition during the 1960s, and before. Freshman eligibility wasn't restored by the NCAA until 1972. So it has been a while. In fact, only a few Cornhusker football players have become starters at any point in their first season on campus.

Just a year ago, Brown was playing tailback and cornerback for Bishop Amat High School in Walnut, Calif. Now, he is starting for Nebraska, the two-time defending national champion. At the begin-

ning, "I was worrying about a lot of things," Brown said. "The other guys could see it in my eyes."

Senior safety Eric Stokes told him to relax. Eventually, he did.

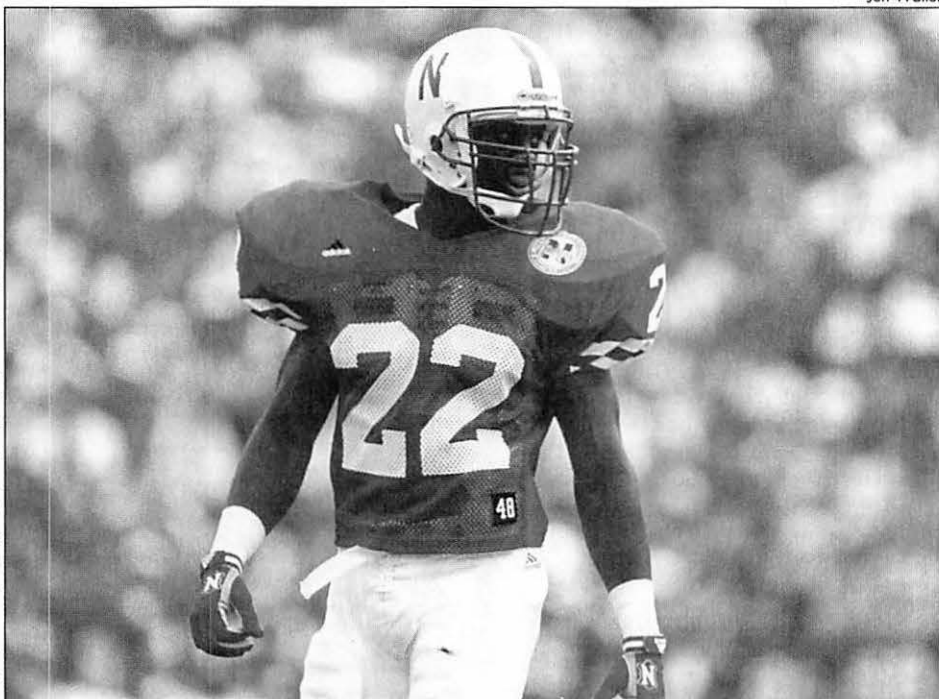
Afterward, Darlington summed up Brown's collegiate debut. "I think for a first-game player, Ralph did fine," Darlington said. "Freshmen are freshmen, and they'll play like freshmen."

Brown wasn't the only true freshman to play against Michigan State. Cornerback Mike Brown (no relation) also saw action, as did I-back DeAngelo Evans, split end J.R. Edwards and defensive tackle Steve

There was a time when most, if not all, of those players almost certainly would have spent this season as redshirts — or, just a few years ago, playing on a freshman/junior varsity team. NCAA rules have forced the elimination of freshman/junior varsity teams. Nebraska maintained one as long as it could.

The limit of 85 football scholarships per team has created opportunities for true freshmen. That, combined with concerns about depth at certain positions and what coach Tom Osborne has called "an unusually good group of freshmen," has caused the Cornhuskers to use at least those five.

Jon Waller



Cornerback Ralph Brown became the first true freshman position player to start a season-opening game for the Huskers in at least 35 years.

Warren. In addition, sophomore weakside linebacker Eric Johnson couldn't practice last year because of NCAA freshman eligibility requirements, so he was no more experienced than a true freshman.

Barring serious injury, none of them can be redshirted this season.

Wingback John Gibson and middle linebacker Carlos Polk reportedly were other true freshmen who might have played in the Michigan State game, thereby skipping a redshirt. But neither was listed on the sheet of duplicate numbers (assigned to true freshmen) distributed before the game.

The list also didn't include

George Guidry, another highly regarded freshman who apparently will be redshirted. Although the final decision on redshirting players usually isn't made until the beginning of conference play, Guidry plays a position — rush end — at which Nebraska is well-stocked.

Clint Finley was the only true freshman on the numerical roster who didn't play against Michigan State. The lone quarterback among the Cornhuskers' scholarship recruits, Finley has been moved to free safety.

"He's got the ability. He just doesn't know much about it," Osborne said in announcing the position switch at his weekly news conference before the Michigan State game. "Before the second or third game, we'll have to make a hard decision on Clint, as to whether we need to play him or not."

Finley's move to the secondary underscores the concern about an apparent lack of depth there. That's why Ralph Brown and Mike Brown have been given an opportunity to play right away.

The Browns "are very bright, football-wise, and also in the classroom," Darlington said. That's important because there is much for a cornerback to learn about Nebraska's defense.

"We ask a tremendous amount from our cornerbacks," he said.

The week before the Michigan State game, Darlington gave his defensive backs comprehensive written tests on their responsibilities: one was 15 pages long, the other (on the night before the game) eight.

The Browns "both did tremendous," Darlington said.

"I didn't expect things to happen this fast," Ralph Brown said.

Last season, he led Bishop Amat to the CIF Division I championship. The title game, against Loyola High, was played at the Los Angeles Coliseum, before a crowd of 30,000, according to Brown.

That experience "helps a little," Darlington said. But Nebraska's 209th consecutive sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium for the Michigan State game numbered more than 75,000.

"This was still more than twice as many," said Darlington.

That's why the Cornhusker cornerback in the jersey with a duplicate No. 22 took so many deep breaths. "When I ran out there (for the first time), I had chills," Ralph Brown said. ■

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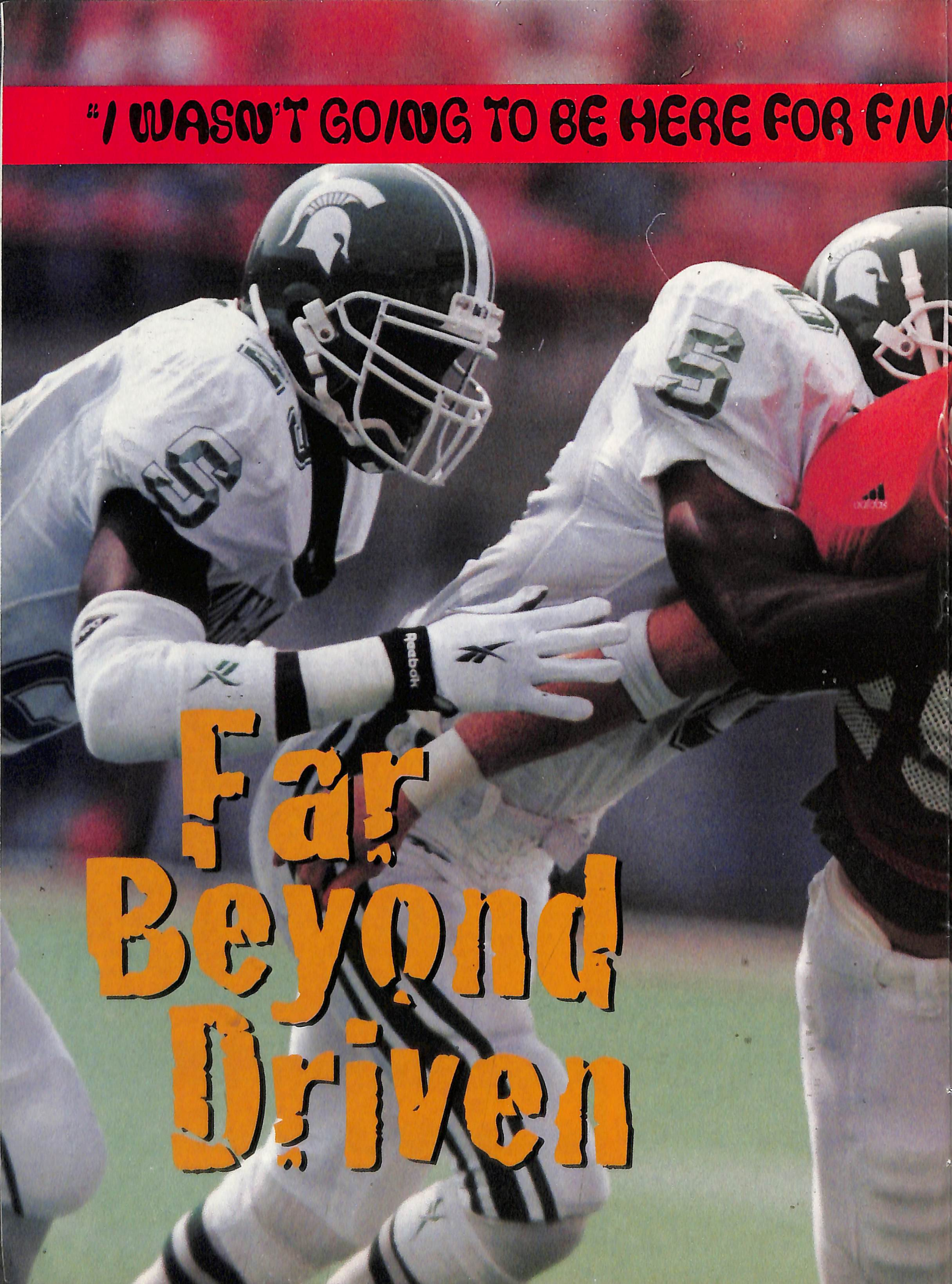
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"I WASN'T GOING TO BE HERE FOR FIVE



Far Beyond Driven

E YEARS AND NOT GET ON THE FIELD."



In a review of the Metallica album "Binge and Purge," (which was part of an elaborate box set in 1994) *Rolling Stone* noted: "... unfortunately, it requires such an investment of time and money that only the most devoted Metallica fans are likely to buy it."

Jon Vedral, Nebraska's senior wingback, bought it.

Yes, Vedral is among the most devoted of Metallica's fans — or as Lars Ulrich, the drummer and a co-founder of the heavy metal band, has called them: "Metallibangers."

And yes, he has thrown himself into the mosh pit at a concert by the band *Rolling Stone* has credited with "effectively bridging the gap between hard trash and commercial metal."

To appreciate Metallica, "you've got to be a little nuts," Vedral said. He considered the matter briefly, then added: "If you know me, though, it fits."

Cornhusker football fans have come to know Vedral as the player in jersey No. 25. The guy who looks a little bit like a bulked-up Opie Taylor from "The Andy Griffith Show" (check his photo in the game program) who always seems to turn up in exactly the right place at the right time.

Consider a couple examples of his opportunism last season:

- In the closing seconds of the first quarter of the Kansas State game, Nebraska I-back Clinton Childs fumbled as he was about to cross the goal line. Vedral fell on the ball for a touchdown.

- Early in the first quarter of the Kansas game, at Lawrence, the Jayhawks fumbled a punt, and Vedral recovered the ball in the end zone for the first six points in Nebraska's 41-3 victory.

"It's a combination of hustle and a lot of luck," said Vedral.

Since walking on at Nebraska, Jon Vedral has opened many eyes with both his hustle and luck on the field and with his musical preferences off it

Jon Waller

Vedral's uncanny ability to react to the unexpected and use it to his team's advantage first became apparent when he was a sophomore. In addition to his duties as a reserve wingback and playing on special teams, Vedral held for place-kicks. In the Oklahoma State game, he turned an errant center snap into a two-point conversion pass to the kicker, Darin Erstad. Vedral also completed a pass to fullback Jeff Makovicka for a 5-yard gain on a fake field-goal attempt in the 32-3 victory over the Cowboys.

Vedral walked on, which means he shares an experience with countless Cornhuskers over the years. He is among five walk-on starters this season. The others are split end Brendan Holbein, offensive tackle Adam Treu, fullback Brian Schuster and All-America rush end Jared Tomich.

Like Tomich, Vedral didn't grow up in Nebraska. His home is Gregory, S.D., located in the south central part of the state, 30 miles east of Winner. Sioux Falls is three hours away.

Gregory's population is about 1,500, so there's not a lot to do, according to Vedral.

"You just hang out at the bowling

alley. At least I always did ... the Gregory Lanes ... kids still hang out there, I think," he said. He hung out there, literally. "I never bowled much."

Gregory High School "is small enough to play nine-man football," Vedral said. "But it doesn't. We stay in 11-man (Class) B. We've always been better than some 11-man (Class) A teams."

Vedral played running back and linebacker, rushing for 2,500 yards and scoring 48 touchdowns as a junior and senior. He also competed in track and field as well as wrestling. He finished second in his weight division at the state high school wrestling championships his senior year. "My (wrestling) career pretty much ended with that match. I didn't love wrestling like I did football," said Vedral.

Actually, "love" probably didn't accurately describe his attitude toward football, either, until his last season in high school. Before his senior year, "I really wasn't into football that much," he said. "I was into hunting and music, rock'n'roll, hard rock, heavy metal, Pantera, Metallica ..."

Being into football "that much" is a relative assessment, anyway. He

certainly wasn't into football as much as was his older brother, Mike, whose passion for Nebraska football in particular was extraordinary, considering he had grown up in South Dakota. "Mike was 100 percent a Cornhusker," Jon said.

Mike Vedral also walked on at Nebraska, earning letters as a tight end in 1990, 1991 and 1992. He was put on scholarship his senior year, but "it didn't matter to Mike if he had a scholarship or not," said Jon, who saw his brother play a couple of times at Memorial Stadium. "He really liked it here."

When Jon told Mike he was thinking about accepting a football scholarship from South Dakota State or one of the other small colleges that recruited him, Mike emphatically said, "No way."

"I basically didn't have a choice," Jon said. He would go to Nebraska, end of discussion.

Nebraska was interested in him as a walk-on. For one thing, he weighed only 170 pounds — he's 205 now. For another, "they were out of scholarships. They said I would have a chance to earn one, but I didn't really care about that," Jon said. His parents, Dennis and Dianne, left the decision to him, as

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they had left it to Mike. "It (a scholarship) was never an issue with my parents."

Vedral was put on scholarship last season. "I was glad I got it because of my parents," he said. "It took a financial load off them. But it really didn't satisfy my hunger. I thought I had a lot left to prove. I still do. So many (walk-on) players here deserve scholarships. The NCAA should see that."

Jon's younger brother Mark, a high school senior, has already announced he will accept a football scholarship from Nebraska next fall. Mark also plays running back and linebacker.

"My little brother took things a lot more seriously when he was younger," Jon said. "He earned it. Mark realized what it took while he was still in high school. More power to him."

Jon's determination to prove himself early on was often an irritant to those older Cornhuskers against whom he practiced during his two seasons on the scout team. Jon approached practice as if it were a game.

He had one speed: full-steam ahead.

"You've got to make sure when it's practice time, it's practice time. My goal was to get on the field. I wasn't going to be here for five years and not get on the field," Vedral said. "But I wasn't going to just be out there. You're practicing against the No. 1 guys. They have nothing to prove. You do. So sometimes, they get mad at you. You're not out there to be passive."

His play the last three seasons has reflected that attitude. He is tenacious in his blocking. "Losing has never been an option for me," he said. "Every play to me is my own personal battle."

Vedral comes by his work ethic naturally. It is a cash crop, you might say, nurtured in the rich soil of the upper Midwest. He grew up doing daily chores on a farm 14 miles from Gregory.

"I'm not afraid to work," he said. "I've spent a lot of days in the field."

Vedral said the contrast between his farm-boy image and his fanatical work ethic and musical tastes has gotten the attention of teammates.

"I've opened a few guys' eyes around here, I think," said Vedral.

The hard-edged sounds of Metallica are about as out-of-place on the football team as they were in the wheat fields of south central

South Dakota. You'd more likely expect someone from Gregory to be into Garth Brooks or Alan Jackson. But Vedral has liked Metallica since he was in the fifth grade.

That's when Vedral's friend, David Dobesh, moved to Gregory from New Jersey. "He got me hooked on Metallica," Vedral said. "He got me into Motley Crue and Kiss. Then we moved on."

According to Vedral, Husker punter Jesse Kosch is about the only other Cornhusker who appreciates Metallica, but Vedral said Kosch would be a bit more hesitant to hurl himself into a mosh pit.

At a concert, the mosh pit usually

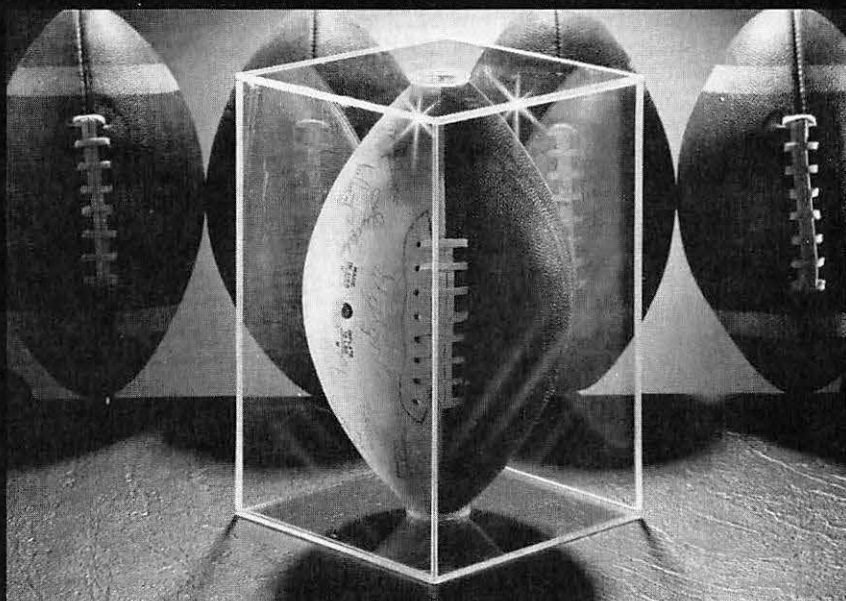
forms in front of the stage, where the more adventurous concert-goers dive into a mass of humanity and are kept afloat above the floor by those beneath them. The mosh pit shares some of the physical characteristics of a fumble drill or the point of impact on a goal-line stand.

Two years ago, Vedral convinced some of his Cornhusker teammates, including guards Brenden Stai and Joel Wilks and fullback Cory Schlesinger, to go with him to a Metallica concert in Des Moines.

"To see those guys in the mosh pit, it was a good time," Vedral said.

He's a Metallifanatic, no doubt about it. ■

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A Canadian Love Affair

Beloved by the fans, Rodgers became a national treasure in the Canadian Football League with the Montreal Alouettes

When I first experienced Montreal, I fell in love with her. The beautiful night life and restaurants were a far cry from what I had become accustomed to growing up in Nebraska. Every day was like a fashion show, and the people were beautiful looking as well as beautiful sounding.



By
**JOHNNY
RODGERS**

I remember driving down St. Catherine's Street in my powder blue Rolls Royce, wearing my blue fox fur coat with matching hat, waving to fans like I was in a parade every day.

The fans were very excited about my arrival. Billboards all over the city, as well as other cities, highlighted Johnny Rodgers and the Montreal Alouettes.

Lydell Bremser had nicknamed me "The Jet," but the Canadian press renamed me shortly after my arrival: "Johnny R Superstar."

In four years of play in the Canadian Football League, God allowed, me to be "Rookie of the Year," an All-Pro all four years, MVP of the Eastern Conference and runner-up as MVP of the league my final season. I had quite a pleasant love affair with the city. The French-Canadians, as well as the English-speaking people, accepted me.

I performed, and it was right on. I was very proud of my team.

The biggest adjustment I had to make in Canadian football was having just three downs instead of four to make 10 yards and a first down. I remember times playing Oklahoma when I wished we had five downs. But then, I couldn't have handled the idea of the Sooners also getting five downs.

Because of the three downs thing, passing on first down was a must in

the Canadian league, which, of course, I liked a lot.

The fact that the field in the Canadian league is 110 yards long and 55 yards wide took a little adjustment on my part. I remember catching a pass in the middle of the field once and running back and forth across the field. I must have covered nearly 100 yards, and yet I didn't even pick up a first down.

I also remember being on the 20-yard line another time, running a deep post pattern for a 40-yard touchdown. Many times from

first went to Canada, there was no blocking on punt returns. There were 12 men coming down the field, against one man. That one man was usually a Canadian or an American who was just about to be put on waivers, someone who they wanted to quit, anyway.

If that wasn't bad enough for the punt returner, get this: There was no fair catching the ball. You had to field it and run for your life.

Well, I tried it some, but it was a challenge that was just a little bigger than me. Because of my near breakaways for touchdowns and the excitement I brought to the game on returns, the rules were changed in

"I Would Tell Them That I Had Practiced Catching BB's, At Midnight, With No Moon And My Sunglasses On."

inside the 20, I'd fake a post pattern and come back to the corner (flag) having covered darn near 60 yards and having to come out of the game for oxygen.

When you run down the field a few times as a decoy, you may feel you need to get your replacement in for you so you can get a rest. The only problem is, with a roster of only 32 players in the Canadian league, there was no replacement. You were expected to play the whole game. Even if you weren't in the best of shape when you arrived for preseason camp, you soon would be because there is a lot of running in Canadian football, long-distance running.

The Canadian league uses 12 players instead of 11. Playing against 12 men on defense wasn't too big of an adjustment for me because of the bigger field. I just had one more guy to out-manuever on punt returns... when punt returns were allowed.

I say "allowed" because when I

my second season in Canada. From then on, blocking was allowed above the waist on punt returns. I thought this was very good because it cut down on injuries and clips, and it allowed me the opportunity to gain nearly 1,000 yards on punt returns.

I even did pretty well on field goal returns, which were even more fun. If a field goal was short and didn't go out of the end zone, you had the option of returning it or downing the ball. Of course, I never downed the ball... or even made fair catches, in situations when I could. I ran touchdowns backward a few times at Nebraska, but in Canada, I ran them backward nearly every time.

With the superb passing of Jimmy Jones, who had played at USC, I managed to catch quite a few passes. When asked by the fans how I learned to catch so well, I would tell them that I had practiced catching BB's, at midnight, with no moon and with my sunglasses on. ■

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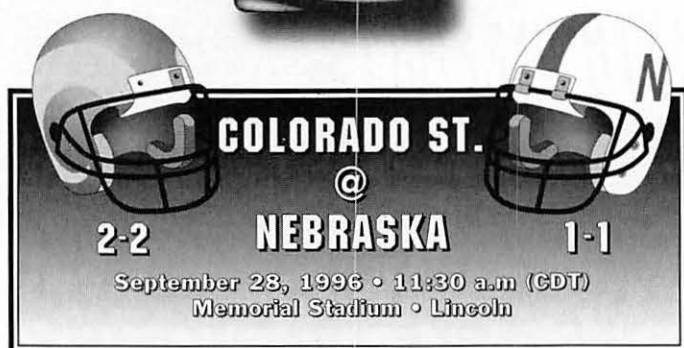
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SCOUTING



By Mark Derowitsch

When evaluating Colorado State's football team, don't look at the Rams' dismal start to form a concrete conclusion.

According to Colorado State coach Sonny Lubick, the numbers are better than the team appears.

"Our team is playing in some ways better than expected," Lubick said. "I don't know if anyone was betting on us being undefeated at the end of September."

That's good, because the Rams are nearly the opposite of an unbeaten football team. After opening the season with a 61-19 blowout of Tennessee-Chattanooga, the Rams dropped back-to-back games to Colorado and Oregon, and took a 1-2 record into its game against UNLV.

It doesn't get any easier for the Rams, either. With games against Colorado and Oregon already completed, Colorado State gets the honor of traveling to Lincoln, Neb., to face two-time defending national champion Nebraska.

Still, the Rams are plugging forward, knowing that there is some relief at the end of some tough non-conference games. Colorado State has won two Western Athletic Conference titles during Lubick's three years. After facing the nation's top team, Colorado State then plays at Hawaii, at Tulsa, at home against

Often overlooked as a pass receiver, tight end Justin Shull is one of the Rams' more sure-handed receivers.

San Jose State and at home against San Diego State. The rest of its schedule includes games against Air Force, Fresno State and Wyoming.

Colorado State's offense has been playing well, averaging 41 points and nearly 470 yards per game early in the season. And the Rams are getting the job done with a balanced attack.

Running back Damon Washington leads the CSU ground game, averaging 116.3 yards per game and 8.5 yards per attempt. In the first three games, Washington gained 349 yards and scored three touchdowns. But Washington isn't the only threat the Rams have when it comes to running the ball, thanks



Colorado State Sports Information

PRESS PICKS

• Mike Babcock, *Huskers Illustrated*

Colorado State has become Iowa State-West, with Cyclone transfers Calvin Branch, a running back, and Geoff Turner, a wide receiver. Coach Sonny Lubick has done a good job with the program. The Rams gave Colorado some anxious moments in a 48-34 loss at Fort Collins, Colo., in their second game.

The environment will be considerably different in Memorial Stadium, however, and Nebraska's defense won't be nearly as lenient as Colorado's was that night. Give Colorado State credit for not trying to buy out of this game. That's becoming a fade, it seems. Even so, the Cornhuskers probably will embarrass their guests, without really meaning to.

Nebraska 63, Colorado State 10.

• Todd Henrichs, *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*

The Rams have been through a rugged stretch with only a softy against UNLV squeezed among dates with Colorado, Oregon and Nebraska. Through it all, the CSU defense has been less than sparkling. Expect the Cornhuskers to light up the scoreboard again.

Nebraska 51, Arizona State 13.

• Brian Rosenthal, *York (Neb.) News-Times*

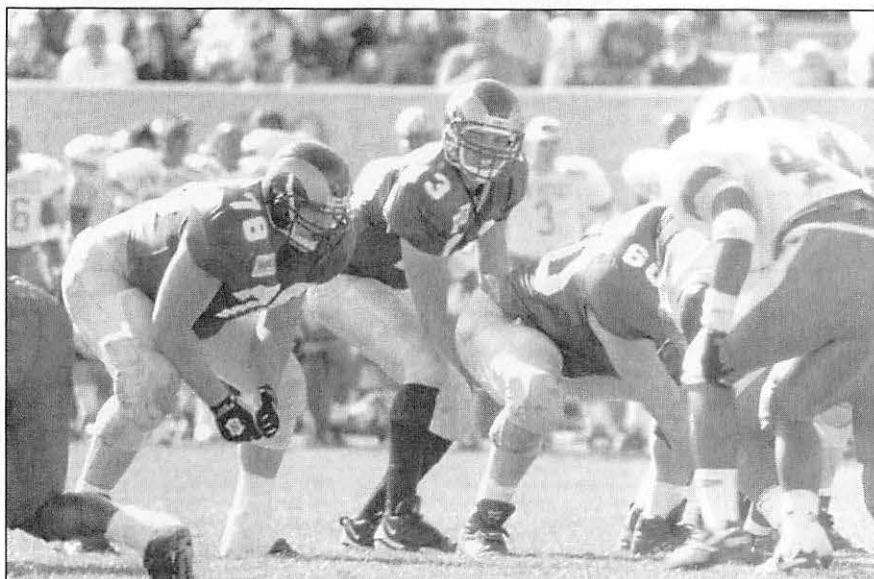
Nebraska concludes its Big 12-abbreviated non-conference schedule against Colorado State, which last came to Memorial Stadium in 1993. The score then was 48-13. Expect the Rams to do a little better on this trip to Lincoln. They'll improve by, say, one point, while Nebraska's winning streak in the friendly confines of a soldout Memorial Stadium will increase to 32.

Nebraska 48, Arizona State 14.

• Doug Looney, *college football free-lance writer*

This is precisely the kind of game that gives college football a bad name, the kind of game that will require a change in policy so that adults actually run college football.

Nebraska 250, Colorado State 0.



Colorado State Sports Information

Colorado State quarterback Moses Moreno (3) has been accurate this season thanks to the protection of his offensive line.

to fullback Calvin Branch. Branch, who shares time at fullback with Washington, has gained 212 yards on 20 carries, for an average of 70.7 yards per game and 10.6 per carry, and has scored five touchdowns.

Halfback Joey Porter carried only 16 times in CSU's first three games, but still picked up 153 yards.

The Rams have a solid attack through the air as well. Quarterback Moses Moreno is completing 51.8 percent of his passes this season, and is averaging 263.7 passing yards per game.

When Moreno goes to the air, the receivers he looks for most often are Geoff Turner and Jeremy Calhoun, the Rams' two starting wideouts. Turner had 15 receptions for 342

yards in the Rams' first three games this season, while Calhoun made 13 catches for 225 yards in the same span. The two have combined for five touchdowns.

CSU also features the tight end, where the Rams have a good pass-catcher in Justin Shull.

The linemen have done a decent job protecting Moreno. The CSU line has given up just four sacks this season.

Junior Eric Bailey (6-foot-7, 277 pounds) and senior Mark Rogowski (6-5, 291) start at tackles, junior Steve Dundee (6-5, 295) and sophomore Anthony Cesario (6-6, 299) are the guards and 6-4, 278-pound Mike Newell starts at center.

But if the Rams are going to do

anything special again this season, the defense has to get better. Through three games, CSU is giving up 34 points per game and more than 500 yards of total offense per game.

The Rams' 4-3 defense is led by middle linebacker Willie Taylor, who leads the team by averaging 11 tackles per contest. Weakside linebacker Nate Kvamme has been in on 28 stops in three games, while strongside linebacker Jim Dettterick has 15 tackles.

Up front, right end Adrian Ross leads the team with two sacks, and also is averaging six tackles per contest. Left end Steve Trammell and tackles Kirk Bowman and Rob Cieslinski also start.

The secondary, which has given up 1,044 passing yards through three games, is led by strong safety Erik Olson, who has broken up three passes and made 32 tackles.

Olson's supporting cast in the secondary is free safety Kevin McDougal and cornerbacks Tetriss Nunn and Brady Schneider.

The Rams have just one more week before it tries to win a third straight WAC title. Lubick, who took over the CSU program in 1993, said he's surprised the Rams have become a fixture atop the WAC standings in such a short time.

"We came around a lot sooner than I or anyone else expected," he said. "We've had a couple of conference championships. Now, we need to sustain it like Nebraska, but we're a long ways from that."

Lubick will get to see how close his team is on Saturday. ■

NEBRASKA VS. COLORADO STATE TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	62	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Sr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
or	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	250	So
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	14	Lance Brown	5-11	190	So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	Sr

RAM DEFENSE

LE	94	Steve Trammell	6-5	242	So
	93	Jason Radakovich	6-5	242	Jr
LT	99	Kirk Bowman	6-4	270	Sr
	74	DeVaughn Hawkins	6-2	292	Jr
RT	95	Rob Cieslinski	6-4	265	Fr
	74	DeVaughn Hawkins	6-2	292	Jr
RE	44	Adrian Ross	6-3	237	Jr
	96	Clark Haggans	6-4	225	Fr
WLB	3	Nate Kvamme	6-0	210	So
	37	Jon Benallo	5-11	211	So
MLB	45	Willie Taylor	6-0	215	So
	35	Eric Vaughn	6-3	221	So
SLB	47	Jim Dettterick	6-2	225	Sr
	10	Derrick Harden	6-1	216	So
CB	4	Brady Schneider	5-8	175	Jr
	2	Eason Ramson	5-9	190	Jr
FS	36	Kevin McDougal	6-0	197	Fr
	28	Erik Olson	6-1	192	Fr
SS	28	Erik Olson	6-1	192	Fr
	29	Otis Johnson	6-0	190	Fr
CB	23	Tetriss Nunn	5-9	175	Fr
	26	Darrell Franklin	5-10	167	Fr
P	18	Matt McDougal	5-11	193	Sr

RAM OFFENSE

WR	1	Geoff Turner	5-8	191	Jr
	6	Ronald Antoine	5-9	163	Sr
WT	77	Mark Rogowski	6-5	291	Sr
	73	Adam Wallace	6-7	274	Jr
WG	78	Steve Dundee	6-5	295	Jr
	62	Josh Dansereau	6-1	256	Jr
C	64	Mike Newell	6-4	278	So
	62	Josh Dansereau	6-1	256	Jr
SG	72	Anthony Cesario	6-6	299	So
	63	Tim Stuber	6-5	315	Fr
ST	71	Eric Bailey	6-7	277	Jr
	61	Blane Saipaia	6-3	287	Fr
TE	88	Justin Shull	6-3	245	Sr
	80	Eli Workman	6-4	262	Jr
WR	83	Jeremy Calhoun	6-0	182	Sr
	9	Terrence Zenno	5-11	195	Jr
QB	13	Moses Moreno	6-2	187	Jr
	12	Ryan Eslinger	6-2	212	So
FB	20	Damon Washington	5-11	193	So
	24	Calvin Branch	5-11	202	Sr
HB	8	Joey Porter	6-3	222	So
	17	Craig Atkins	6-4	217	So
PK	18	Matt McDougal	5-11	193	Sr

HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	6-0	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Sr
	1	Eric Johnson	6-0	205	So
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	*12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Sept. 22, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Huskers Self-Destruct In 19-0 Loss

It was a night for hyperbole. "This is the biggest thing since Moses talked to the burning bush," a caller to a local radio station said with certainty.

Another was slightly less enthusiastic. "It's the best thing that's happened to me since James 'Buster' Douglas beat Mike Tyson," he told the host of "Devil Talk."

Yet another caller was ready to fast-forward the season. "I hope this means the Rose Bowl," he said.

"This" was Arizona State's 19-0 upset of Nebraska, of course. It set off celebrations throughout the campus area.

They began at Sun Devil Stadium and spread in all directions.

People dressed in Arizona State maroon and gold were dancing in the streets, as well as around W.

Steven Martin's "Party Bus," parked on the southeast side of the stadium. Long after the game had ended, music blared from loudspeakers atop the bus.

The sound of Cindy Lauper's voice filled the night air in the "Valley of the Sun." Instead of the girls about whom Lauper sang, however, it was Sun Devil fans, both female and male, who wanted to have fun.

They carried their fun from Sun Devil Stadium to Mill Avenue and

to University Drive. It was difficult for those who wore red and white to pass without insults. "Nebraska fans are probably slitting their wrists right now," one celebrant told another as they waited for the light at the corner of University and Rural Road.

He was wrong. Cornhusker I-back Ahman Green was so emotional at a post-game interview that he had difficulty finishing. He bowed his head in an unsuccessful attempt to regain his composure. But he wasn't ready to slit his wrists. "We tried to our best but didn't succeed," he said.

In retrospect, the stars might have been aligned against Nebraska on this particular night. It certainly seemed that way. Just about everything that could go wrong did.

The Cornhuskers fumbled six times, and lost three. And they were caught in their own end zone three times (count 'em, three) for safeties.

They were limited to 226 total yards, including 130 rushing. And they were shut out for the first time since the 1992 Orange Bowl game, when Miami beat them just as soundly, 22-0.

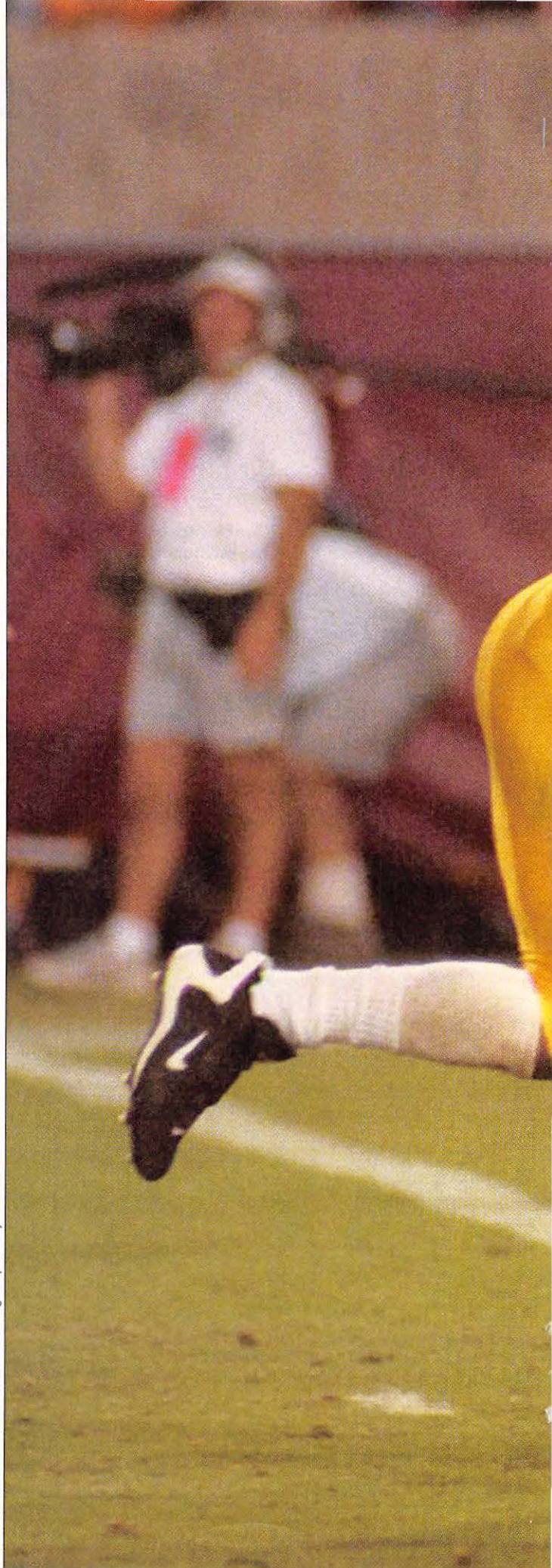
Arizona State scored on the game's first series, driving 80 yards on 10 plays. Five of those

ASU's Derrick Rodgers sacks Scott Frost in the end zone for the third safety of the contest in the fourth quarter.

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

**GAME
RECAP**

Arizona State game photo by Michael Chow







plays were Jake Plummer passes — three of which were complete. The third, on second-and-13, went to Keith Poole for 25 yards and the game's only touchdown.

Plummer threw the ball back across his body as he ran to his left, with Nebraska defenders in pursuit. Poole was wide open. Those six points would be all the Sun Devils needed.

"Basically, the story of the game was, they just whipped us," coach Tom Osborne said. "After we got in the rhythm of things defensively, we needed to generate some offense, and we didn't do that. We had to rely heavily on the pass as the game went on and couldn't protect the passer. We needed a big play and just couldn't make it."

Nebraska's offensive problems were foreshadowed in a victory against Michigan State two weeks earlier. Even though the score was 55-14, the performance was flawed.

"We felt over the last two or three weeks, we've been given a lot of credit for what happened the last two years," said Osborne.

Back-to-back national titles, and a school-record winning streak that had reached 26, left an unrealistic impression. "You can look at tonight and tell we bought into the hype," senior rover Mike Minter said. "We

can't live off the last three years. We had only played one game."

That probably contributed to Nebraska's problems. The week off after the Michigan State game was hardly a blessing for a team trying to find an offensive identity under the direction of a new quarterback, Scott Frost.

The junior transfer from Wood River, Neb., finished with a minus-7 yards rushing, on 10 attempts, and completed only 6-of-20 passes for 66 yards. "I'll shoulder all of the blame for the loss. I'll shoulder what ever people put on me," Frost said.

"I'm the quarterback, and quarterbacks get the blame."

Not from Osborne, they don't.

"In football, when things don't go well, the tendency is to cast too much blame on the quarterback. I don't think it was Scott's problem," said Osborne. "They obviously put a lot of heat on the quarterback. The trouble was, we just can't afford to be second-and-7, third-and-8."

"We didn't develop enough of a running game to keep them (Sun Devil defenders) off our backs."

That Arizona State was able to run the ball was a factor early on. But the Cornhusker defense settled down, limiting Arizona State to five first downs in the second half.

Nebraska's defense even sacked

Ahman Green was able to recover this fumble, but the Huskers lost three of six before the end of the game.

Plummer six times, including two each by Jamel Williams and Grant Wistrom, who left the game with a jammed neck and didn't play in the second half. Despite the pressure, however, Plummer completed 20-of-36 passes for 292 yards to become Arizona State's career passing leader. The senior from Boise, Idaho, showed time and again why he's nicknamed "the snake," slipping away from the Cornhuskers' pass rush.

"The key issue was whether we could run the ball against one of the best defenses in America," Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder said.

"We wanted to run some, but we also wanted to get the ball in the hands of our receivers, and I think we did a great job. Tonight's job by the offense was a pick-and-shovel job. But we got the job done."

Nine different Sun Devils caught passes, led by Lenzie Jackson's eight, for 105 yards.

"The thing we needed to do was hold onto the ball and wear them out. But we couldn't do it," Osborne said, meaning hold onto the ball.

"Arizona State was probably

about as ready to play as they're ever going to be this season. But in our situation, we've got to be good enough to take people's best shot each week."

The Sun Devils' emotional energy was reinforced by the second-largest crowd in ASU history: 74,089. In addition, the echoes of past success were awakened by the naming of the Sun Devil Stadium field in honor of Frank Kush, who coached the Sun Devils' 17-14 victory against Nebraska in the 1975 Fiesta Bowl game.

Even though an estimated 20,000-plus Cornhusker fans attended the game, they couldn't negate the advantage Arizona State had from the noise. Nebraska had significant problems trying to audible, Frost said.

Nebraska, which last lost to Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl game, handled the adversity with characteristic class. "We just got our butts kicked," said senior offensive guard and co-captain Chris Dishman.

"No excuses. They just handed it to us, I guess. We didn't establish the run, and that's what Nebraska does best. We couldn't do it either game."

The Cornhuskers rushed for only 184 yards in the Michigan State game.

As was the case in that game, Nebraska ran significantly fewer plays than its opponent, 69 to 88. Arizona State dominated time of possession.

"We were out there a lot more than we're used to," senior rush end and co-captain Jared Tomich said. "But no, we weren't on the field too long."

"The ball didn't bounce our way a lot of times. We were trying to get some kind of spark, get something going. I said before the season, if we lost a game, we'd beat ourselves."

Senior strongside linebacker Jamel Williams was credited with 15 tackles. But "no one can point a finger or say: 'I did that. I had a good game,'" he said. "We played all right no defense. But everybody has to perform. It's a team thing."

While Williams talked to reporters, the celebration was in full swing. On the field, around Sun Devil Stadium and, it seemed, all over the Valley of the Sun.

"This might be the biggest win I've ever been involved with," Snyder said.

On a night of exaggerations, that, probably, was not one. ■

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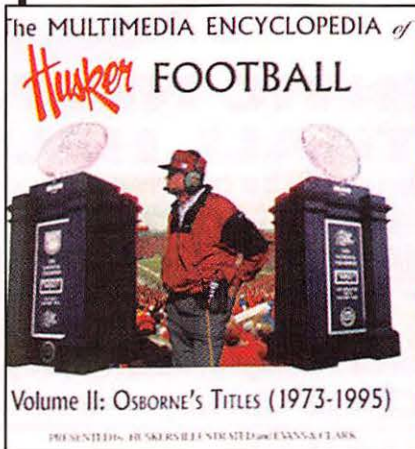
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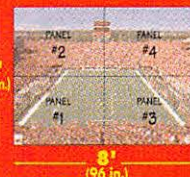
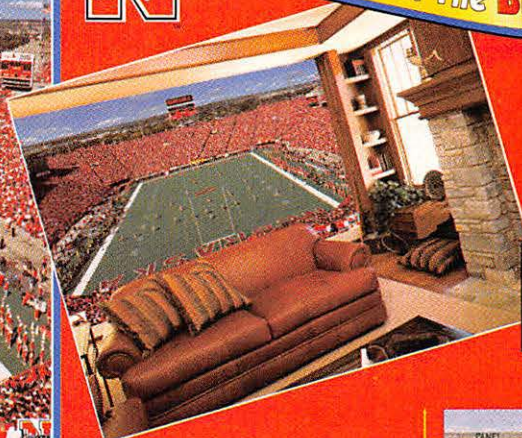
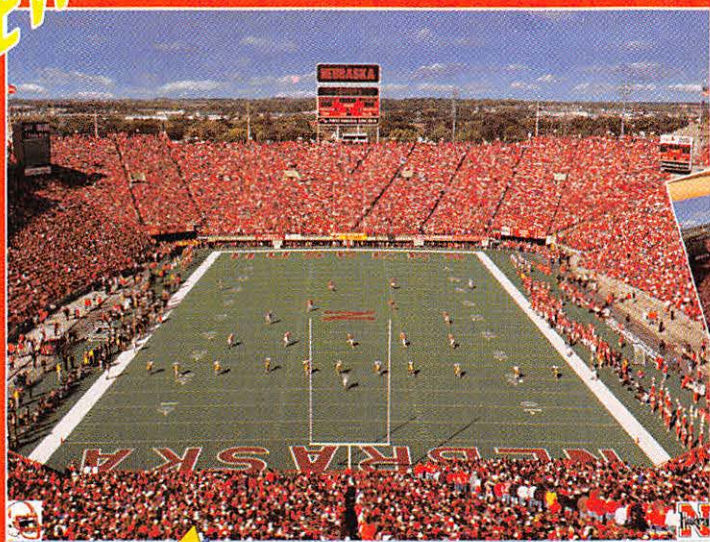
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OVERVIEW

Keeping The Faith

Huskers insist chances of winning third straight title are slim, but not beyond reach

By MIKE BABCOCK

In the closing minutes of the first half, Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost stood in a shotgun formation and prepared to take the snap from center Aaron Taylor.

The Cornhuskers faced a third-and-10 from their own 20-yard line. Arizona State led them 12-0.

The crowd noise was such that Taylor mistook the movement of Frost's arm as a signal to snap the ball, which he did. The ball sailed past Frost to the Nebraska end zone, where Frost won a race to recover it for a safety.

That's how the night went for the Cornhuskers. "Just errors, you know," said Taylor, whose right ankle was wrapped with an ice bag.

The junior from Wichita Falls, Texas, was harder on himself than he probably should have been. The bad snap was only one of many problems.

Nebraska was so disoriented at times that on three occasions it had only 10 players on the field. The Cornhuskers were forced to use timeouts twice before punting. The third time, on a successful field goal attempt by Arizona State, they played with 10.

Still, Taylor focused on himself. "I was pretty disappointed with the way I played tonight," he said. "We knew this would come. But we kept trying to hold it off."

Taylor was referring to the end of Nebraska's school-record 26-game winning streak. He was a redshirt freshman the last time the Cornhuskers lost — in the 1994 Orange Bowl game.

"You try not to think about it (finally losing)," senior rush end and co-captain Jared Tomich said. "No, I didn't think it would come."

But it did, and now Nebraska must pick up the pieces.

The Cornhuskers came to Arizona intending to take another step toward major college football history, winning an unprecedented third

consecutive national championship. Their chances of being in such a position on Jan. 2, 1997, are now diminished.

They aren't gone, however. "It's better to lose early than in November," coach Tom Osborne said.

In this case, it's also better to lose a non-conference game. Nebraska still could win the Big 12's North Division, advance to the conference playoff in St. Louis on Dec. 7 and be

Taylor said he is determined to do that. "I have to start with myself. It's going to have to change, and it's going to change," he said.

Nebraska is only two games into the season, so "this isn't the end of the world," Tomich said.

"Hopefully, we'll find something positive in this," said junior defensive tackle Jason Peter. "It was a reality check out there."

"We'll be back. This doesn't mean we're out of it, at all."

That was a common theme in the Cornhuskers' post-game comments.

"I guess this is a wake-up call for us to get our butts in gear," senior strongside linebacker Jamel Williams said. "There's no excuse for this. It (the winning streak) was a good thing while it lasted."

"But you've got to go on. We all have to come together."

Win or lose, "there's always pride in being a Cornhusker," said Taylor, who was matter-of-fact in his assessments of the loss.

"I feel bad for all of us, the whole state of Nebraska."

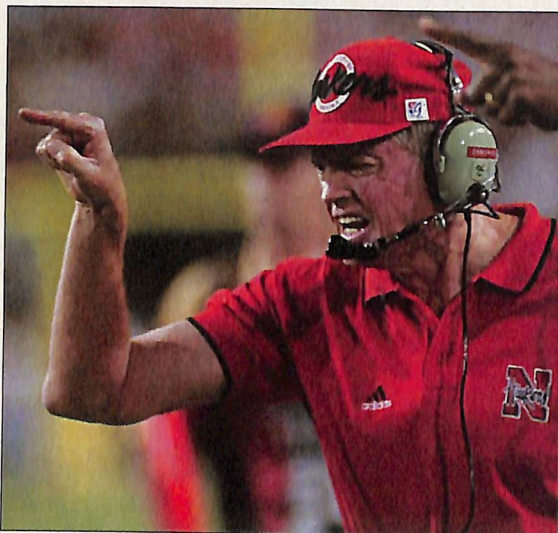
With about 10 minutes remaining in the game, some Cornhusker fans began to leave Sun Devil Stadium. With 6:43 on the clock, large numbers headed for the exits. Many stayed, however.

Some managed to work their way down to field level at the north end of the stadium, where the Nebraska players passed to get to the locker room.

A man and woman, wearing red, pushed against the metal restraining fence. "We still love you," the woman said. "You're still No. 1."

She was speaking figuratively, of course. Now, the Cornhuskers have fallen back with the rest of the pack. The task of winning a third consecutive national championship will be even more difficult, and it was extremely difficult to begin with.

Still, stranger things have happened. What happened here qualifies. ■



Michael Chow

Tom Osborne must re-direct his team's attention away from the ASU loss to winning the Big-12.

one of teams in the Bowl Alliance national championship game, scheduled for the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2.

It's much more of a long shot now. But, hey, it could happen.

"We can still be in the whole shebang," Taylor said.

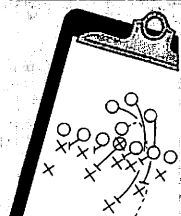
First, however, the Cornhuskers must do some re-evaluating, and maybe some soul-searching. "It's up to the players," said Osborne. "We'll have some pretty long talks the next couple of days, to see where we are, where we're going and how hard we're willing to work to get there."

"I'm looking for all of them to react positively. I think you'll see a team come out and play hard next week" against Colorado State.

STATISTICS VS. ARIZONA ST.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

Sun Devil Stadium • Tempe, Ariz.



SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	0	0	0	0	— 0
ARIZONA ST.	9	8	0	2	— 19

TEAM STATS

	NU	ASU
First Downs	13	22
Rushing	8	7
Passing	5	15
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	44	52
Yards Gained Rushing	148	148
Yards Lost Rushing	18	39
Net yards rushing	130	109
Net yards passing	96	292
Passes attempted	25	36
Passes completed	8	20
Had intercepted	0	1
Total plays	69	88
Total net yards	226	401
Avg. gain per play	3.3	4.6
Fumbles-lost	6-3	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-32	4-56
Punts-yards	8-367	9-384
Avg. per punt	45.9	42.7
Possession time	23:32	36:28

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Williams, J.	5	10	15	2	0
Stokes, E.	6	5	11	0	0
Hesse, J.	2	8	10	0	0
Peter, J.	2	8	10	1	0
Minter, M.	2	6	8	0	1
Foreman, J.	2	5	7	0	0
Booker, M.	1	5	6	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	2	4	6	0	0
Tomich, J.	1	5	6	0	0
Fullman, M.	4	1	5	0	0
Wistrom, G.	2	3	5	2	0
Kelsay, C.	1	3	4	1	0
Rucker, M.	1	3	4	0	0
Ogard, J.	1	1	2	0	0
Wiltz, J.	0	2	2	0	0

ARIZONA STATE	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Rodgers, D.	3	7	10	1	0
Freedman, M.	3	5	8	0	0
Simmons, J.	2	5	7	0	0
Burnstein, B.	0	7	7	1	0
Amey, V.	1	6	7	1	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Green, A.	20	87	4.4	23	0
Frost, S.	10	-7	-0.7	11	0
Benning, D.	6	52	8.7	19	0
Schuster, B.	4	10	2.5	4	0
Turman, M.	3	8	2.7	8	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Martin, M.	26	77	3.0	14	0
Plummer, J.	10	-33	-3.3	4	0
Battle, T.	9	39	4.3	14	0
Redmond, J.	6	30	5.0	17	0
Boyer, R.	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
Frost, S.	20	6	0	66	0
Benning, D.	1	0	0	0	0
Turman, M.	4	2	0	30	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
Plummer, J.	36	20	1	292	1

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Brown, L.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Holbein, B.	3	26	8.6	11	0
Vedral, J.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Benning, D.	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Schuster, B.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Green, A.	1	20	20.0	20	0

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Jackson, L.	8	105	13.1	21	0
Poole, K.	3	68	22.6	25	1
Martin, M.	2	17	8.5	9	0
Bush, S.	2	29	14.5	16	0
Redmond, J.	1	31	31.0	31	0
Boyer, R.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Mitchell, K.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Battle, T.	1	1	1.0	1	0

FIELD GOALS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
Brown	0	0	

ARIZONA STATE

Player	Att	Made	Distance
Nycz, R.	2	2	27, 44

1996 SEASON STATS

(2 GAME)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	2	35	94	47.0	1
Benning, D.	2	14	87	43.5	0
Frost, S.	2	20	51	25.5	1
Shuster, B.	2	8	23	11.5	0
Makovicka, J.	2	3	19	8.0	0
Sims, J.	2	2	5	2.5	0
Turman, M.	2	4	5	2.5	0
Evans, D.	2	1	2	1.0	0
Cheatham, K.	2	1	-16	-8.0	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	2	11-32-0	34.4	140	1
Turman, M.	2	4-6-0	66.6	70	1
Perino, J.	1	1-0-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Holbein, B.	2	4	61	15.3	30.5	1
Vedral, J.	2	3	39	13.0	19.5	0
Shuster, B.	2	2	26	13.0	13.0	0
Cheatham, K.	2	1	30	30.0	15.0	1
Edwards, J.R.	1	1	10	10.0	10.0	0
Makovicka, J.	1	1	3	3.0	3.0	0
Brown, L.	2	1	22	22.0	11.0	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	2	2	2	35

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	2	10	18	28	0	3
Hesse, J.	2	6	13	18	0	0
Peter, J.	2	4	13	17	0	2
Foreman, J.	2	4	10	14	0	0
Stokes, E.	2	7	7	14	0	0
Minter, M.	2	4	8	12	3	0
Wistrom, G.	2	4	6	10	1	3
Terwilliger, R.	2	3	6	9	0	0
Rucker, M.	2	4	4	8	0	2
Kelsay, C.	2	2	5	7	0	1
Booker, M.	1	1	6	7	0	0
Tomich, J.	1	1	6	7	0	0
Fullman, M.	1	5	1	6	0	0
Ogard, J.	1	1	3	4	0	0
Shaw, B.	1	1	3	4	0	0
Wiltz, J.	1	0	4	4	0	0
Brown, R.	1	1	2	3	0	0
McFarlin, O.	1	1	2	3	0	0
Toline, T.	1	1	1	1	0	0
Walther, E.	1	1	1	1	0	0
Jackson, J.	1	1	1	1	0	0
List, G.	1	1	1	1	0	0
Roberts, M.	1	1	1	1	0	0
Ortiz, T.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Saltsman, S.	2	0	0	0	0	0
Makovicka, J.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Ryan, E.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Warren, S.	1	0	1	1	0	0.5
Warfield, E.	2	1	0	1	0	0
Held, R.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Drum, B.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Legate, B.	1	1	0	1	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	524	647			
Net Rushing Yards	314	192			
Passing Yards	210	455			
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	7	20	21	7	55
Opponents	9	8	7	9	33

1996 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 2-0 (0-0)

Sept. 7	Michigan State	W, 55-14
Sept. 21	@ Arizona State	L, 19-0
Sept. 28	Colorado State	
Oct. 5	@ Kansas State	
Oct. 12	Baylor	
Oct. 19	@ Texas Tech	
Oct. 26	Kansas	
Nov. 2	@ Oklahoma	
Nov. 9	Missouri	
Nov. 16	@ Iowa State	
Nov. 29	Colorado	

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The Cornhuskers are continuing to attract top running back prospects from across the nation

The Nebraska offense of the 1990s is a beautiful thing, with no visible weakness. It is the prototype college football offense that many coaches try to imitate.

The Cornhuskers' offense continues to be based on the option.

Nebraska mixes in traditional running plays, and now throws more than in years past. But don't be misled — the option remains the bread-and-butter play. Having a solid quarterback is always a must in any offense, but the position that drives the Nebraska offense is running back.

Because of the versatility of the Husker attack, Nebraska is always in on the best running backs in the country. The running backs know that playing for Nebraska will allow them to play in a run-oriented offense, and that if they measure up, pro scouts won't hesitate to give them a shot.

As always, the Huskers are recruiting coast-to-coast, especially at the running back position.

In Louisiana, **Anthony Thomas** (6-foot-1, 215 pounds, 4.45 in the 40) of Winnfield is drawing rave reviews. Thomas has the size, power and speed all coaches covet. In one playoff game, Thomas rushed for 485 yards and eight touchdowns. Thomas also excelled during the regular season, finishing with 1,436 yards and 32 touchdowns. His style is already being compared to that of former Husker All-American Lawrence Phillips, who is now playing with the St. Louis Rams in the NFL.

"I really want to go someplace where they love to run the football," Thomas said. "I really don't care how they run it as long as they are running a tailback and using him as the main man in an offense. I think Nebraska does that better than anybody in the country. They always seem to have a tailback in the running for the Heisman Trophy or getting drafted in the first round."

Nebraska has a slight lead in the competition for Thomas over Notre

Dame, Oklahoma, LSU and Texas.

Kevin Johnson (6-2, 220, 4.5) of Thibodaux is another impressive running back from the Bayou State. Despite the presence of Thomas and halfback **Travis Minor** (5-11, 190, 4.4) of Baton Rouge (Catholic), Johnson has managed to forge his niche by rushing for 2,183 yards and 18 touchdowns. Texas A&M was the early leader, but the Huskers have closed the gap recently, with LSU and Tennessee in hot pursuit.

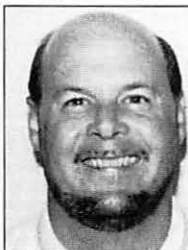
Minor doesn't show a strong interest in the Huskers early, leaning instead toward playing for Notre Dame. However, the Irish recently earned a commitment from **Cooper Rego** (5-9, 190, 4.5) of Montvale (St. Joseph), N.J., considered by many to be among the top 10 players in the country.

His commitment to the Irish might encourage Minor to reconsider, and Nebraska has always been among his top choices.

Levron Williams (6-3, 200, 4.5) of Evansville (Bosse), Ind., said he has always liked Nebraska, but he has always been a Southern Cal fan, too. Williams ran, slashed and sprinted his way to 2,112 yards and 22 touchdowns last season. USC is the early leader, but there is speculation that when the Huskers really begin their push, they can close the gap in a hurry. Michigan, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Michigan State are all in the running.

The best in the Big 12 area is **Darnell McDonald** (5-11, 195, 4.4) of Englewood (Cherry Creek), Colo. McDonald juked his way to 2,567 yards and 32 touchdowns last season and said he can easily see himself doing the same in a Husker uniform.

"If you are a running back, you can't help but be interested in Nebraska," McDonald said. "I know if you are good enough to play there, then good things are going to happen to you. You know you are going



**By
JAMES
HALE**



to run into competition too, but they seem to play several (running backs) and eventually you will get your opportunity."

McDonald said he also is interested in Colorado, USC, Florida State, Texas and Miami.

Ladell Betts (5-11, 205, 4.55) of Blue Springs, Mo., is another great one out of the Big 12 area who is considering Nebraska early. Betts, who is also considering Missouri, rushed for 1,810 yards and 32 touchdowns last season. The bet here is that he won't stay in state, looking instead to go to Nebraska, Colorado, Michigan or Notre Dame.

Eric Gooden (6-3, 215, 4.5) of Midwest City, Okla., keys a powerful attack on a team that is currently ranked 15th in the country. A year ago Gooden was playing both ways, playing in the secondary and rushing for 611 yards and seven touchdowns in a back-up role to All-American running back Vernon Maxwell.

However, many college recruiters have said they always felt Gooden was the better pure running back of the two. Gooden is said to be leaning toward joining the Big Red.

"Nebraska runs the I-back better than anybody in college football," Gooden said. "That's what the Huskers are known for: running the football."

Nebraska has made a living off California talent, and the Golden State has another strong crop to offer collegiate programs. **Damien Barton** (5-10, 180, 4.5) of Corona (Centennial) is a tremendous scat-back who lists the Huskers as one of his top choices, along with UCLA, Washington, Notre Dame, California, Oregon and Arizona.

"Nebraska is a great program in so many ways," Barton said. "I will look closely at their academics, because I realize that football doesn't last a long time and I need a life after football."

Malaefou MacKenzie (5-11, 220, 4.5) of Mission Viejo (Capo Valley) not only has one of the great names in high school football, but some of the best moves as well. USC has been his long-time favorite, but UCLA, Colorado, Nebraska and Arizona are said to be getting consideration.

Patrick McCall (5-10, 190, 4.5) of Carson is another great California back the Huskers will chase. It won't be easy to sign him, because McCall reportedly loves Michigan and went to the USC camp this past summer. ■

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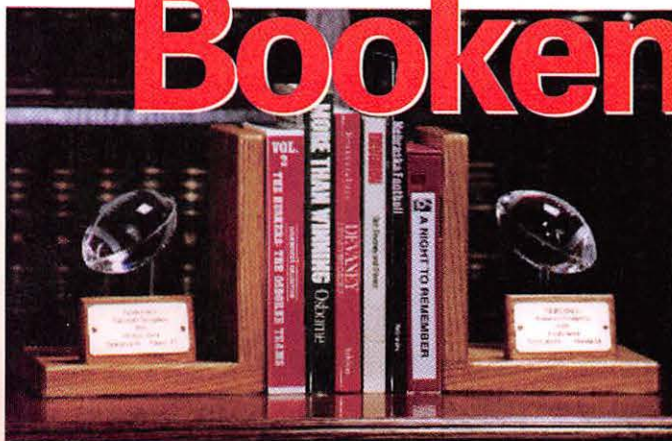
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Dare To Dream

Megan Korver turned down a full ride at George Washington for a chance to walk on a Husker team of which she has always wanted to be a part • Mike Babcock

Terry Pettit has called it a "tremendous story." It underscores the unique appeal of his Nebraska volleyball program.

Just as high school football players in the state dream of playing for Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers, the state's high school volleyball players dream of playing for Pettit. Consider

Megan Korver and the manner in which she became a Husker.

Korver, a sophomore middle blocker, was selected by Big 12 coaches as the preseason conference Newcomer of the Year. She comes from Adams, Neb., a small Gage County community located about 30 miles south and east of Lincoln, where she attended Norris High School.

Korver, whose father Kelvin played defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders in the mid-1970s, earned Class B all-state recognition in volleyball as a high school senior. Nebraska was interested enough to recruit her out of high school, but only as a walk-on. Had the Huskers only offered a scholarship ...

"I don't know what I would have done," Korver said. "I might have taken it. But I really wanted to get away my first year (of college), go to a different part of the

country. So I don't know for sure."

The point is moot, of course. Korver accepted a scholarship from George Washington University and went off to Washington, D.C., to play volleyball.

Megan enjoyed the experience, but she began to re-evaluate the volleyball part of it after GW came to Nebraska to play the Huskers at Nebraska Coliseum in the Arby's Classic last September.

The capacity Coliseum crowd "was unbelievable," Korver said.

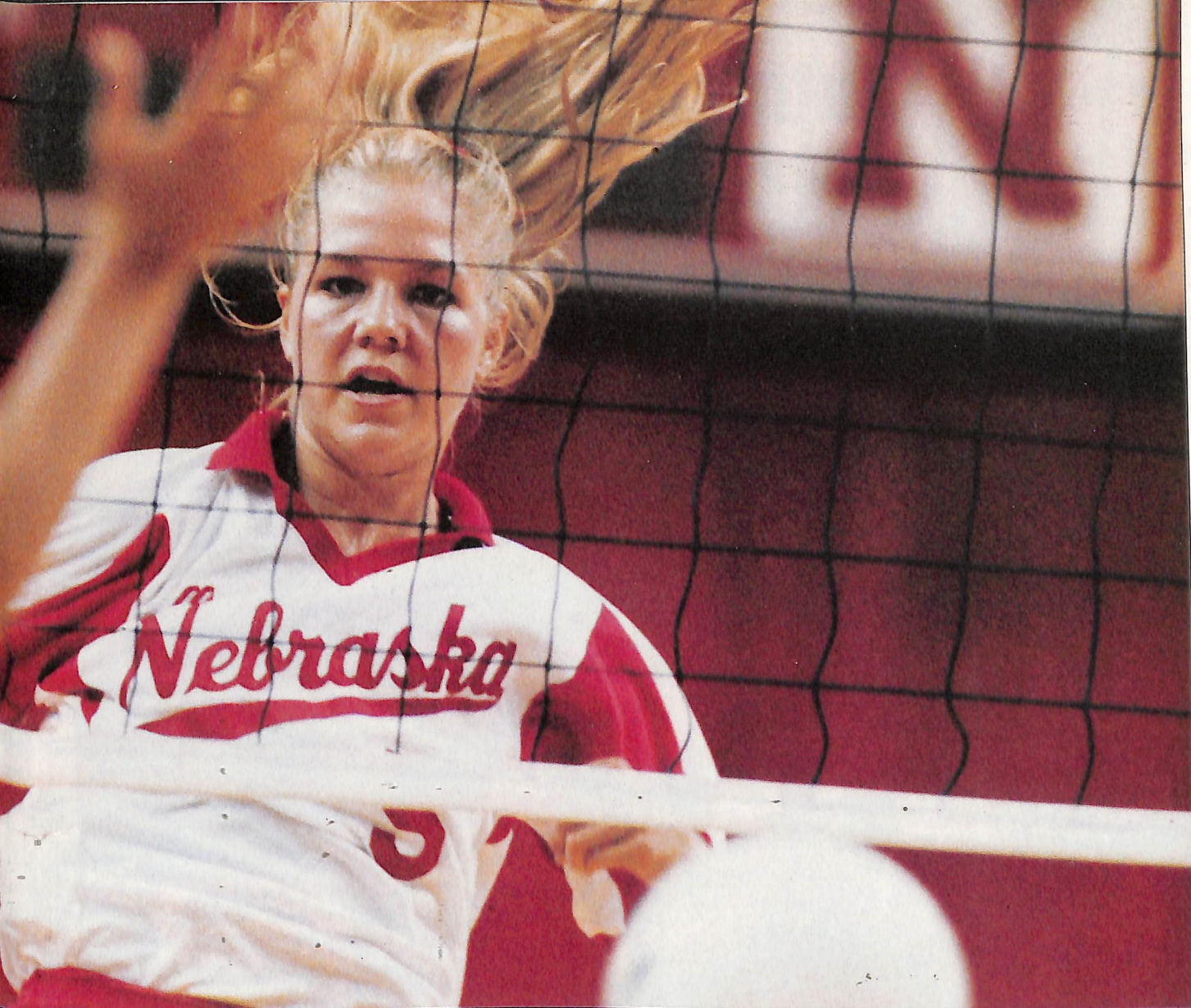
"The excitement ... I knew the level of play here was above George Washington's, just from the way the atmosphere was," Korver said. "It was exciting to be on the floor. I liked it a lot."

The decision had been made, however. She had passed on Nebraska's offer to walk on, and there was no turning back. "I told myself: 'You're going to have to deal with that the next four years,'" she said.

Korver was successful at George Washington. She was chosen as the Atlantic 10 Conference Newcomer of the Year for a team that won a fourth consecutive regular-season conference title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The Colonials finished with a 30-6 record.

Despite that success, Korver began to think about transferring to Nebraska. "It was really difficult for me," she said. "I had a good coach. I had a good team. It was

**SIDE
OUT**



Jon Waller

the fans that I missed, the whole atmosphere of volleyball at Nebraska, which I took for granted while I was here (in high school)."

Nebraska's national championship was a factor, too. "I thought about what it would be like to play for the No. 1 team, of course," Korver said. "But mostly, it was the atmosphere."

The first serious thoughts of transferring were in December. The decision came in April, after much contemplation. "I think it was April 14. I'm not sure about that. But the day itself, I remember very clearly. I remember telling my coach. I remember telling my team. I remember the moment I knew I was going to come here, the moment I told myself there was no turning back," said Korver.

Her resolve wasn't diminished when GW coach Susie Homan refused to sign a release that would have allowed her to compete immediately at Nebraska. The NCAA requirement that Division I-A transfers sit out a season before becoming eligible applies only to football and basketball.

The George Washington athletic director gave Homan permission to release Korver. Homan, however, refused to do so. "She said she wasn't flexible in her decision," Korver said. "We knew we were in for a long ride. But I was coming to Nebraska no matter what, whether I was

released or not. I was going to practice with Nebraska (this season). I didn't know if I was going to be able to play in games."

Korver appealed to the NCAA, and a hearing was scheduled in Washington, D.C. Before the hearing, however, "the athletic director came around and overruled her (Homan)," Korver said.

Korver is the first transfer from a four-year school in Pettit's 20 seasons as coach. "That's because we're committed to our players," said Pettit. "If Megan was from somewhere else, other than the immediate area, we probably wouldn't have taken her. But I knew the family. We had recruited her."

Korver's decision to come to Nebraska before the release was signed, and as a walk-on, convinced Pettit of her commitment. "She went there (to George Washington). She was Freshman of the Year in the conference. She liked the school. She liked the team. She got great grades," Pettit said.

"She left for only one reason — she really couldn't bear not playing Nebraska volleyball. How can you not like that, somebody who says: 'Man, I'm successful. I've got a scholarship. But I'm willing to give that up just to come back and play Nebraska volleyball.' To me, that's a pretty powerful statement."

Or, a "tremendous story." You can take your pick. ■



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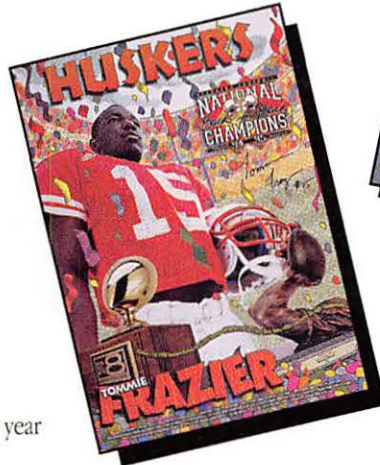
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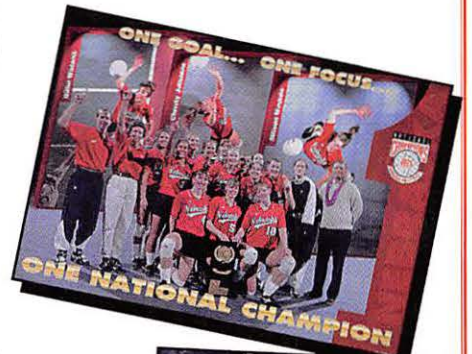
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BEST OF THE BEST

the numbers game

Jerseys 11-20

Editor's Note: This is the third of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era. Next week we'll break down numbers 21 through 30.

The crowd at the 209th consecutive sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium for Nebraska's season-opening, 55-14 victory over Michigan State included Jan Berringer, who made the trip from Goodland, Kan., with daughters Drue Berringer and Nicoel Nasser and granddaughter Ellen Brook Nasser.

A year ago, Jan came to Lincoln to watch and cheer for her son Brook, who was in his senior season of playing quarterback for the Cornhuskers. This year's visit, however, was shaded in sorrow.

In April, just two days before the Red-White intrasquad game and the National Football League draft, Brook Berringer and a friend, Tobey Lake, died in the crash of a small plane.

Berringer, an academic all-conference honoree and recent Nebraska graduate, was 22 years old. His future was bright. A professional football career was possible, if not probable. The tragedy of his death profoundly affected those who never knew him, as well as those who knew him best.

Nebraska fans had another opportunity to cheer Berringer before the Michigan State game, fol-

lowing a brief ceremony in which the 1996 season was officially dedicated to his memory. Messages from each of the Cornhusker co-captains were shown on the stadium's giant HuskerVision screens.

"This was a really rough day, but

it was wonderful," Jan Berringer said.

The No. 18 Berringer wore on his jersey wasn't assigned this season. It will take some time before Cornhusker fans can look at that number and not think of him coming off the bench when Tommie Frazier was sidelined by blood clots and leading Nebraska to seven victories in 1994.

For now, anyway, the No. 18 remains Berringer's. As a result, he shares recognition as the "best" to wear jersey No. 18 in this second installment of *Huskers Illustrated's* "Best of the Best: The Number's Game."

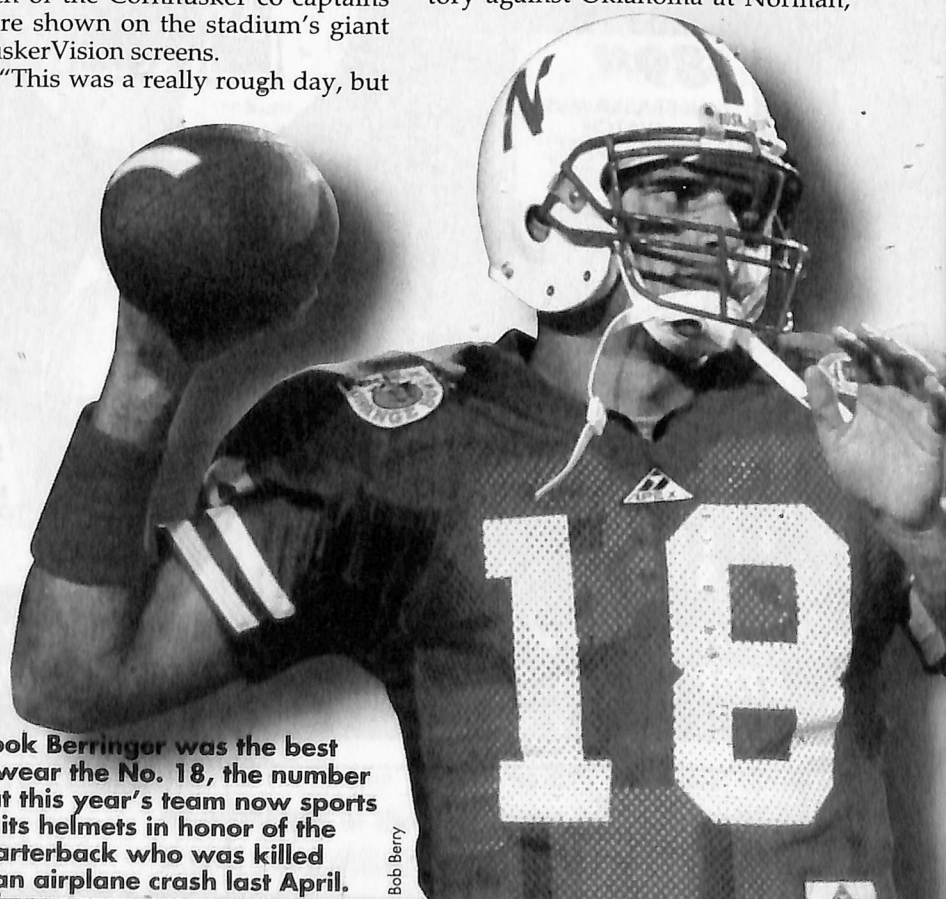
As mentioned in the introduction to this series, the "best" designation is arbitrary. Choices have been based, as much as possible, on statistics and honors, such as All-America and all-conference recognition. But in some instances, including this one, other factors must be taken into account.

#11: Neil Harris
Also: Jeff Quinn

Neil Harris is probably best-remembered for his efforts in the final minute of Nebraska's 28-21 victory against Oklahoma at Norman,

Brook Berringer was the best to wear the No. 18, the number that this year's team now sports on its helmets in honor of the quarterback who was killed in an airplane crash last April.

Bob Berry



#11: Neil Harris
(1982-84)
Jeff Quinn (1978-80)

#12: Bobby Reynolds
(1950-52)
David Humm (1972-74)
Jarvis Redwine (1979-80)
Turner Gill (1981-83)

#13: Byron Bennett
(1990-93)
Steve Runty (1972-73)

#14: Dennis Claridge
(1961-63)
Jerry Tagge (1969-71)

#15: Tommie Frazier
(1992-95)
Vince Ferragamo (1975-76)
Bob Churchich (1964-66)

Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)

Oklahoma, in 1983. Twice, as the clock wound down, Harris broke up passes thrown by Sooners quarterback Danny Bradley. The second of the deflections came in the end zone on a fourth-down play to preserve the victory and a perfect regular-season record.

Harris came from Kansas City, Kan., and started for three seasons at cornerback.

Among the others who have worn the number well is Jeff Quinn, who lettered as a quarterback in 1978, 1979 and 1980. He started part of his junior season and all of his senior season, ending his Cornhusker career as the MVP in a decisive victory against Mississippi State in the 1980 Sun Bowl game.

The 6-foot-3, 206-pound Quinn came from Ord, Neb. He was a strong runner, who finished as the leading career rusher among Nebraska quarterbacks (with 786 yards).

#12: Bobby Reynolds

Also: Dave Humm, Jarvis Redwine, Turner Gill

Bobby Reynolds is among several Nebraska greats who have worn this jersey number. It is one of only five numbers worn by as many as three Cornhusker All-Americans.

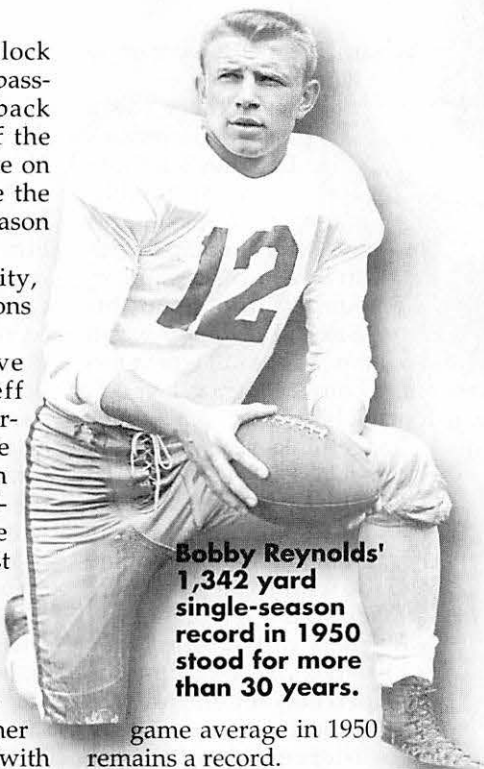
Dave Humm and Jarvis Redwine are the others who wore No. 12.

Reynolds is the pick, not only for his statistics but also because he ranks among the best-known Cornhuskers in the pre-Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne era. Reynolds was a national celebrity as a sophomore in 1950. He

was "Mr. Touchdown," for a Nebraska team that finished 6-2-1.

Reynolds rushed for 1,342 yards (6.95 per carry) in 1950, a mark that stood as the Cornhuskers' single-season record for more than 30 years, until it was broken by Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier. Reynolds scored 22 touchdowns that season, including 19 rushing scores.

Even though he was hampered by injuries as a junior and senior, Humm still ranks sixth on Nebraska's career-scoring list with 211 points. His 17.4 points per



Bobby Reynolds'
1,342 yard
single-season
record in 1950
stood for more
than 30 years.

game average in 1950 remains a record.

Humm's accomplishments were comparable to those of Reynolds. The lefty from Las Vegas played quarterback in 1972, 1973 and 1974, completing 353-of-637 passes (55.4 percent) for a school-record 5,035 yards and 41 touchdowns. He ranks third on Nebraska's all-time total offense list.

Redwine, a transfer from Oregon State, ranks 13th in career rushing at Nebraska, even though he played only two seasons, 1979 and 1980. As a senior, despite being slowed by a broken rib, he rushed for 1,119 yards and nine touchdowns. His best rushing performance was against Colorado in 1979: 206 yards.

Redwine was popular among Cornhusker fans, earning the nickname "Marvelous Jarvis."

Turner Gill, Nebraska's current quarterback coach, also wore jersey No. 12 during a three-year (1981-83) career in which he earned first-team all-conference honors three times. His record as a starter was 28-2, including 20-0 in Big Eight games. He still ranks sixth in career total offense.

#13: Byron Bennett

Also: Steve Runty

Yes, Byron Bennett missed the 45-yard field goal attempt with one second remaining in the Cornhuskers' 18-16 loss against Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl game. But that unfortunate miss (wide left) hardly

characterizes Bennett's place-kicking career at Nebraska.

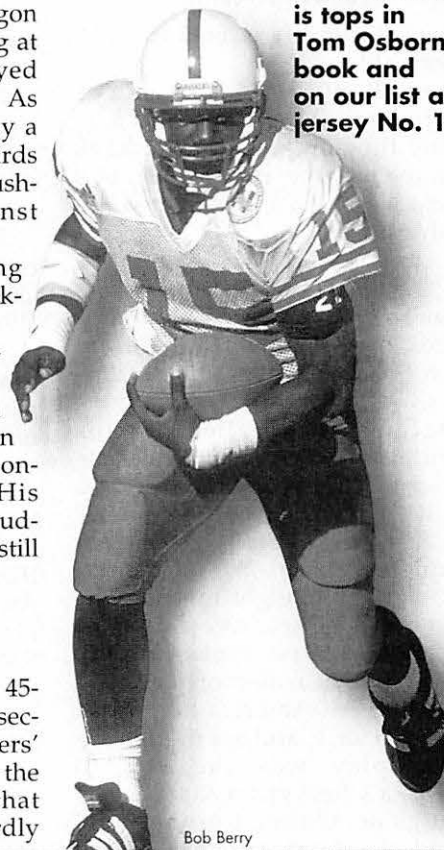
Bennett came from Rowlett, Texas, and was the regular place-kicker for three seasons. He was successful on 150-of-156 extra-point kicks and 24-of-39 field goal attempts. He is second to Kevin Seibel (151-of-156) in career extra points and third behind Dale Klein (27) and Gregg Barrios (26) in career field goals. He is tied with Tommie Frazier for fourth place on the all-time career scoring list, with 222 points.

If any Cornhuskers have been superstitious about the No. 13, they certainly haven't shown it, according to veteran equipment manager Glen Abbott. "We've never had people who were too superstitious to wear No. 13," he said. However, "more than likely, the number ends up with kickers."

Ted Retzlaff, a junior walk-on from Waverly, Neb., has the number now. He's a backup place-kicker, who earned a letter last season. Among other recent place-kickers who wore No. 13 were Tom Janky (1988), Craig Schnitzler (1987) and Eddie Neil (1980, 1981). All were walk-ons.

Neil, a transfer from Citrus Junior

Tommie Frazier
is tops in
Tom Osborne's
book and
on our list at
jersey No. 15.



Bob Berry

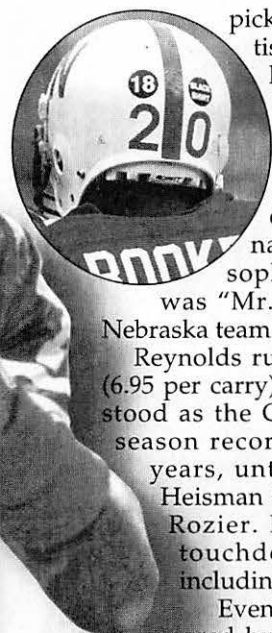
#16: Jim Murphy
(1981-82)

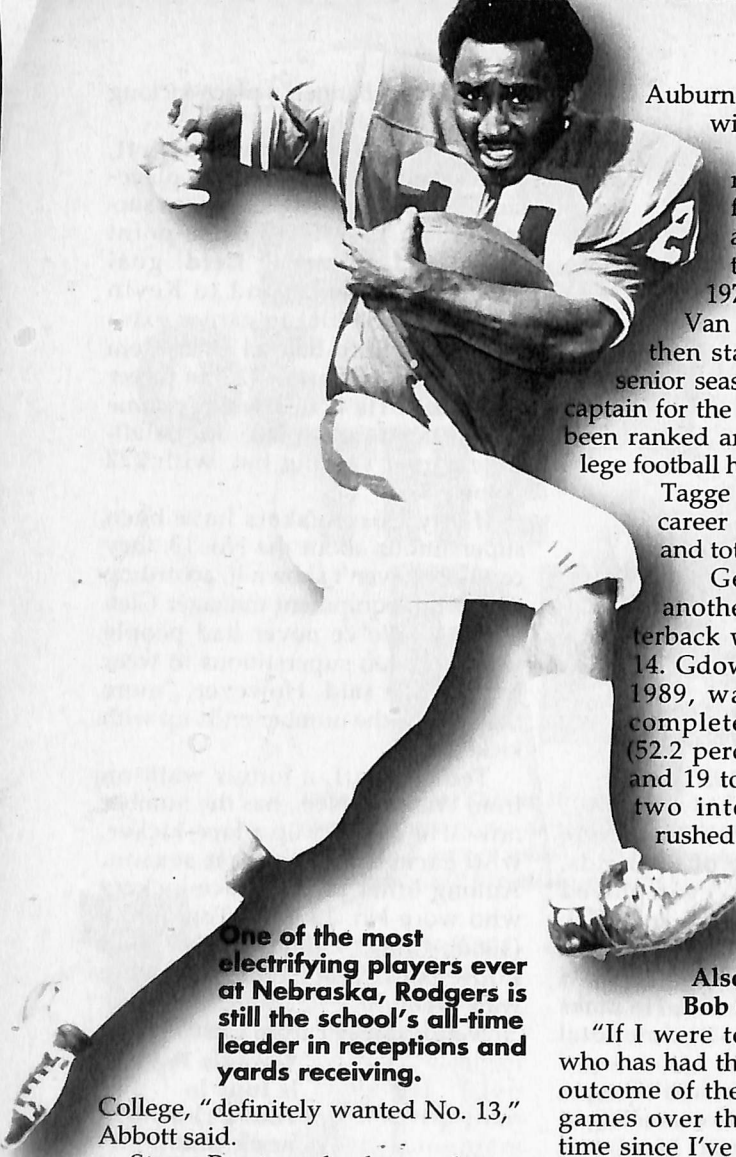
#17: Shane Swanson
(1982-84)
Mark Mauer (1979-81)

#18: Brook Berringer
(1992-95)
Jim Anderson (1969-71)

#19: Randy Borg
(1971-73)

#20: Johnny Rodgers
(1970-72)
Al Larson (1967-69)





One of the most electrifying players ever at Nebraska, Rodgers is still the school's all-time leader in receptions and yards receiving.

College, "definitely wanted No. 13," Abbott said.

Steve Runty, who lettered as a quarterback in 1972 and 1973, is among the non-kickers who have worn the number. His son, Jay, was among Nebraska's freshman walk-ons this season.

#14: Dennis Claridge

Also: Jerry Tagge, Gerry Gdowski

This is a tossup between two of coach Bob Devaney's top quarterbacks.

Devaney has called Dennis Claridge the best quarterback he ever coached. Claridge played at a time when passing was a less-prominent element of the college game. He completed 125-of-298 passes for 1,733 yards and eight touchdowns during his three-year career.

Claridge was a co-captain in 1963, earning first-team all-conference and Academic All-America honors. A strong runner, Claridge's most memorable play was the key to Nebraska's first victory in a major bowl game. On the Cornhuskers' second play from scrimmage in the 1964 Orange Bowl game, he ran 68 yards for a touchdown against

Auburn. Nebraska went on to win 13-7.

Jerry Tagge was a regular at quarterback for Devaney's national championship teams in 1970 and 1971. He alternated with Van Brownson as a junior, then started throughout his senior season. Tagge also was a captain for the 1971 team, which has been ranked among the best in college football history.

Tagge ranks second in both career passing (4,704 yards) and total offense (5,283).

Gerry Gdowski was another outstanding quarterback who wore jersey No. 14. Gdowski's senior season, 1989, was outstanding. He completed 71-of-136 passes (52.2 percent) for 1,326 yards and 19 touchdowns and only two interceptions, and he rushed for 926 yards and 13 touchdowns.

#15: Tommie Frazier

Also: Vince Ferragamo, Bob Churchich

"If I were to choose one player who has had the most impact on the outcome of the greatest number of games over the longest period of time since I've been at Nebraska, it would be Tommie Frazier," Tom Osborne has said of his former quarterback, now with the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League.

Perhaps no quarterback has ever combined the ability to run and the ability to pass as well as did Frazier (1992-95).

The Palmetto, Fla., native hauled in numerous awards for his performance a year ago. Frazier was named first-team All-America, and was the runner-up in the voting for the Heisman Trophy (behind Ohio State running back Eddie George). He also was named the recipient of the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and was voted the national Player of the Year by UPI and *The Sporting News*. Frazier was a finalist for the 1995 Sullivan Award (given annually to the outstanding amateur athlete in the country), the Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award and the Walter Camp Player of the Year.

Frazier, who missed most of the 1994 season because of blood clots in his leg, came back for the Huskers in the Orange Bowl and guided the Big

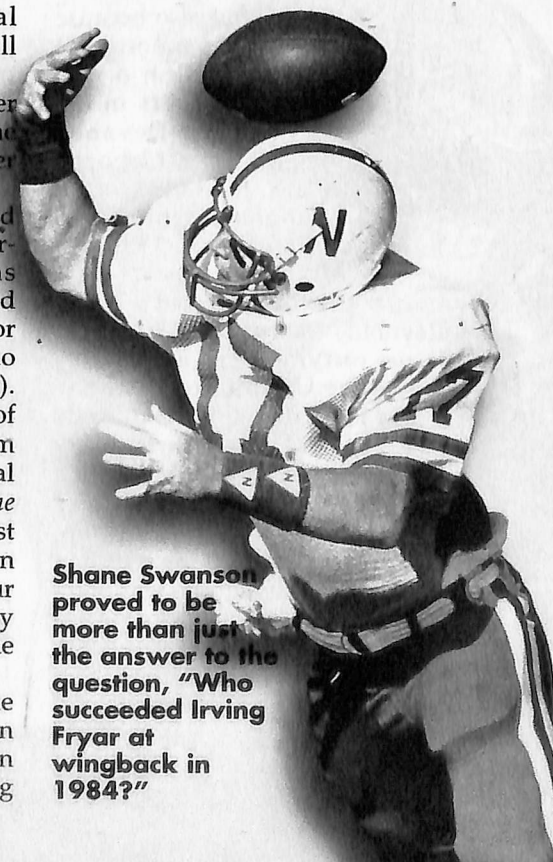
Red to two fourth-quarter touchdowns, leading the Huskers to a 24-17 victory over Miami and bringing the national championship trophy to Lincoln.

At the end of his senior season, Frazier made the Fiesta Bowl against Florida into a personal highlight reel, rushing for 199 yards on just 16 carries (12.4 yards per carry) and scored two touchdowns, and passed for another 105 yards and an additional touchdown. His dramatic 75-yard touchdown run in the third quarter wrapped up the 62-24 thrashing of the Gators and ensured the Huskers their second consecutive national title.

Although other outstanding quarterbacks have worn this number, including Vince Ferragamo (1975-76) and Bob Churchich (1964-66), Frazier is the obvious pick.

#16: Jim Murphy

Jim Murphy? He represents Nebraska's rich walk-on tradition. Murphy came from Lexington, Neb., waited his turn and earned letters in 1981 and 1982. He played on special teams and as a defensive back. He went into the 1982 season as the No. 1 right cornerback. But he was hampered by injuries. Even so, Murphy earned academic all-conference honors and contributed to an outstanding season.



Shane Swanson proved to be more than just the answer to the question, "Who succeeded Irving Fryar at wingback in 1984?"

#17: Shane Swanson**Also: Mark Mauer**

Shane Swanson succeeded All-American Irving Fryar as Nebraska's starting wingback in 1984. The rugged cowboy from Hershey, Neb., led the Cornhuskers in receiving, with 16 catches for 203 yards. He also ranked second in the Big Eight and third in the nation in punt returns, averaging 14.5 yards per return. With just under nine minutes remaining in the Oklahoma State game in 1984, Swanson returned a punt 49 yards for the only touchdown in Nebraska's 10-3 victory.

He was as smart as he was tough, earning academic all-conference honors as a senior.

Mark Mauer, a quarterback from 1979 to 1981, came off the bench to start the Oklahoma game as a senior, after Turner Gill was sidelined by a lower-leg injury. Mauer led the Cornhuskers to a 37-14 victory, their first in Norman, Okla., since the "Game of the Century" in 1971. The Nebraska co-captain completed 11-of-16 passes for 148 yards and a touchdown that afternoon.

#18: Brook Berringer**Also: Jim Anderson**

As indicated earlier, Jim

Anderson shares this number with Brook Berringer. Anderson started 36 consecutive games at cornerback during his varsity career. He was a co-captain on the 1971 national championship team, earning both all-conference and academic all-conference honors.

Anderson was beaten for a touchdown only once in his three seasons. Missouri speedster Mel Gray accomplished that nearly impossible feat when Anderson was a sophomore in 1969.

He was from Green Bay, Wis., as were Cornhusker teammates Jerry Tagge and Dave Mason.

#19: Randy Borg

Randy Borg, a two-year starter from Alliance, Neb., was among those who made the head coaching transition from Bob Devaney to Tom Osborne. He was a cornerback and punt returner. He returned a punt 77 yards for a touchdown in Osborne's first game as head coach, a 40-13 victory against UCLA. Nebraska led the nation in pass defense when Borg was a senior, in 1973.

#20: Johnny Rodgers**Also: Al Larson, Ron Meade**

Who else would this be but

Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers, Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy winner? His kick returns and pass catching were crucial to the national championships in 1970 and 1971. He is still the school's all-time leading pass receiver with 143 catches for 2,479 yards. The number was among those that have been taken out of retirement. Cornerback Michael Booker has it now.

The only other player to wear No. 20 since Rodgers played was his son, Terry (1986-89).

Al Larson, a defensive back from Sioux City, Iowa, wore No. 20 immediately before Johnny Rodgers. Larson earned letters in 1967, 1968 and 1969. Among others who have worn the number over the years are Ron Kirkland, a rugged halfback from West Bend, Wis., from 1964 through 1966; Warren Powers and Ron Meade. Powers, wore No. 20 his final season at Nebraska in 1962, after wearing No. 15 as a sophomore. Meade was a quarterback for Bill Jennings from 1959 to 1961.

Meade kicked a field goal to give Nebraska a 25-14 lead, then intercepted a pass in the end zone to preserve the 25-21 victory that ended Oklahoma's 74-game conference unbeaten streak in 1959. ■

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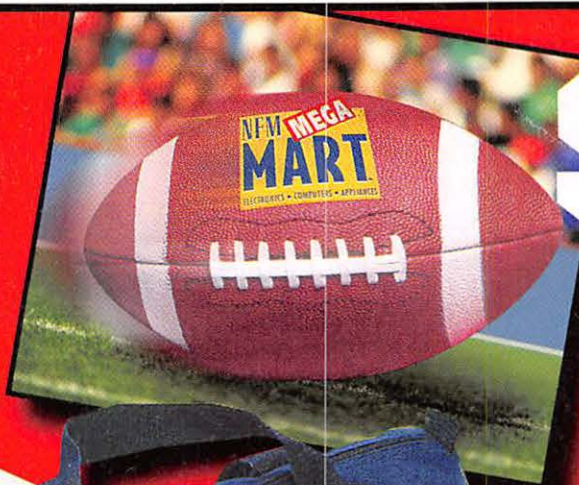


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